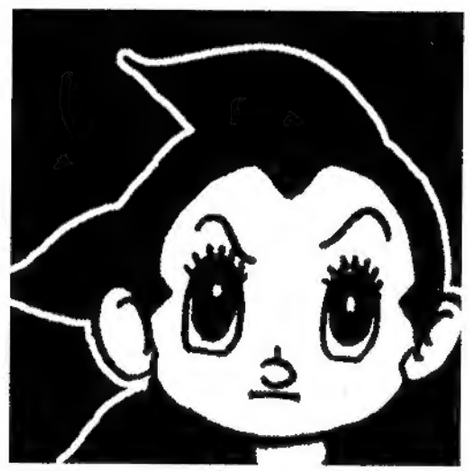
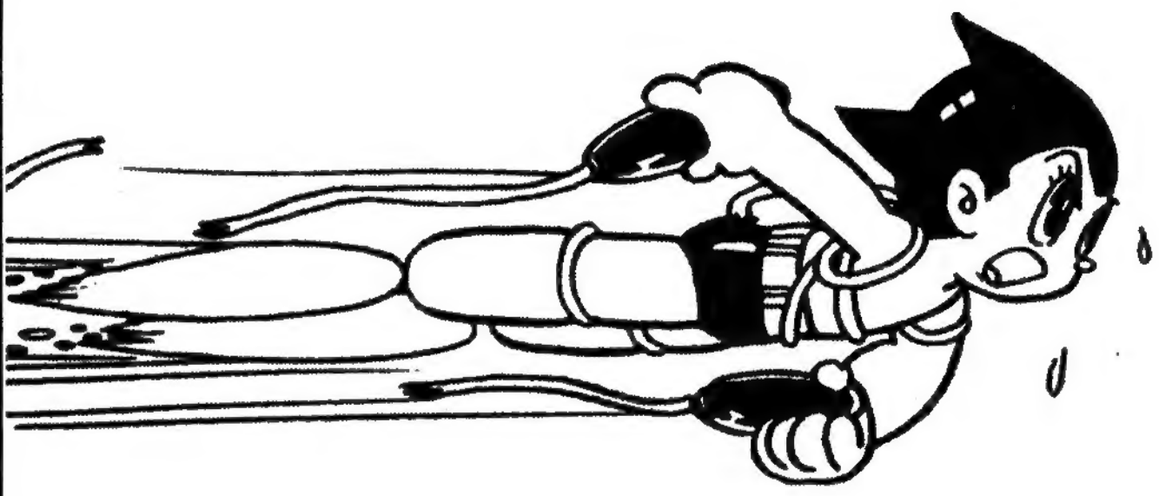

18
Osamu Tezuka's original
ASTRO BOY®





ASTRO BOY®

18

by

Osamu Tezuka

Table of Contents

A NOTE TO READERS.....5

THE ROBOT SPACESHIP.....7

COUNT BAT.....93

ATLAS.....155

S.O.S. FROM A SATELLITE.....185

THE MYSTERIOUS BALL.....195



THE ROBOT SPACESHIP

First serialized from July to December 1963
in *Shonen* magazine.

AND THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS THE *MINISTRY OF SCIENCE'S DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY*... WHERE *ROBOTS* COME FROM...

WHAT DO YOU THINK? EVERYTHING'S DRAWN SO COMPLICATED, IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, NO?

SO, *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU*... IS THIS WHERE YOU DO YOUR TOP SECRET RESEARCH, TOO?...

YEAH... IS THIS WHERE YOU'RE MAKING THAT *ROBOT SPACE SHIP* WE'VE HEARD ABOUT?

I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

NOW, PROFESSOR... WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE? WE'VE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD JUST TO SEE THIS THING...

WELL, I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ADMIT IT, DO I? BUT I'M SORRY I CAN'T SHOW YOU ANYTHING... IT'S A *SECRET*, AFTER ALL!

NOT SO FAST, FRIEND!

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A *SECRET CAMERA* UNDER YOUR NECKTIE!

FOR SECURITY'S SAKE, I COULD'VE READ YOUR MINDS WITH MY *ECTOPSYCHO-SCOPE*, BUT I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE TOO *RUDE*...

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

YOU THINK ANYONE'S GOTTEN CLOSE TO THE SECRET LAB?

NOT A CHANCE, PROFESSOR! WE'VE GOT THE PLACE UNDER STRICT *GUARD!*

OKAY... LET ME IN...

KABABOOOM!

UH OH... IT'S A *FLYING SAUCER* WITH A *MICRO CAMERA* BUILT INTO IT...

SO SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING ME! I'D BETTER BE MORE CAREFUL!

GOOD THING THE DOOR TO THIS ROOM HAS SPECIAL *RAYS* THAT DESTROY METAL OBJECTS AND KEEP EVERYTHING OUT...

...'CAUSE THE RESEARCH HERE'S *TOP SECRET!*

WHOOSH

EVERYTHING GOING OKAY, *ASTRO?*

NO PROBLEMS SO FAR, PROFES-SOR...

PHOOSH PHOOSH SHOO SHOO

SO HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO TEACH 'EM ANYTHING?

YEAH... I TAUGHT THEM ALL ABOUT THE WORLD OF HUMANS, AS WELL AS ROBOTS!

AMAZING, ISN'T IT? THEY'RE ALL ROBOTS, JUST LIKE YOU, BUT SINCE THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE HUMANS, THEY DON'T *LOOK* LIKE REAL ROBOTS, EITHER...

BUT THEY'RE ALL GREAT ROBOTS, PROFESSOR!

OKAY, EVERYBODY, LISTEN UP! THIS MAN HERE'S PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU. HE'S YOUR CREATOR!

ALL RIGHT, ROBOTS! HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER

YOU'VE ALL BEEN LIVING IN THIS UNDERGROUND ROOM EVER SINCE YOU WERE CREATED. I'M SORRY IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY UNTIL NOW...

...BUT I KNOW ASTRO BOY'S TAUGHT YOU AN AWFUL LOT OF THINGS...

AND NOW THE DAY WHEN YOU WILL BE ACTIVE ON EARTH, OR EVEN IN THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE, IS DRAWING NEAR...

UNTIL THEN, I HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EXISTENCE A *TOP SECRET!*

IF ANY BAD PEOPLE LEARNED YOUR SECRET, THEY'D START PLOTTING SOMETHING TERRIBLE RIGHT AWAY...

BEEEP

NUMBER 89 WANTS TO ASK A QUESTION, PROFESSOR...

I HAVEN'T LEARNED WHAT "BAD PEOPLE" AND "PLOTTING" MEANS YET

REALLY? *HM...* MAYBE THEY DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT YET...

OKAY, ASTRO... SHOW ME WHAT THEY CAN DO...

YESSIR! OKAY, EVERYBODY READY?!

.....

.....

OKAY, EVERYBODY ASSUME *FIRST ACTION SHAPE!*

SHANK

KACHANK

ZLANK

CHAK

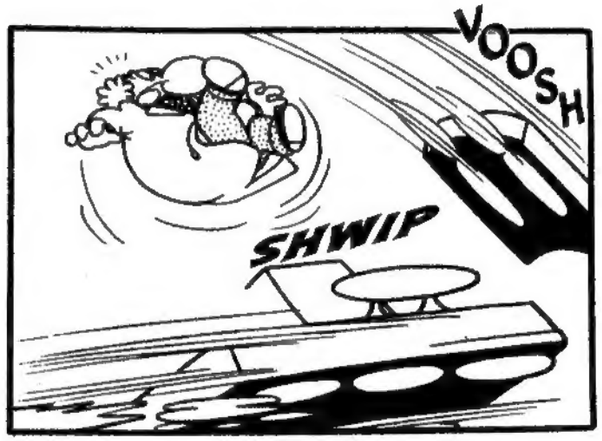
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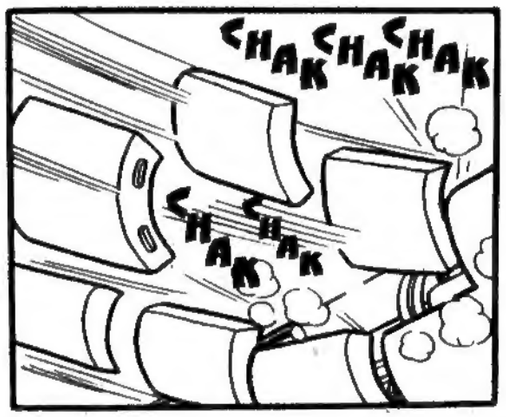
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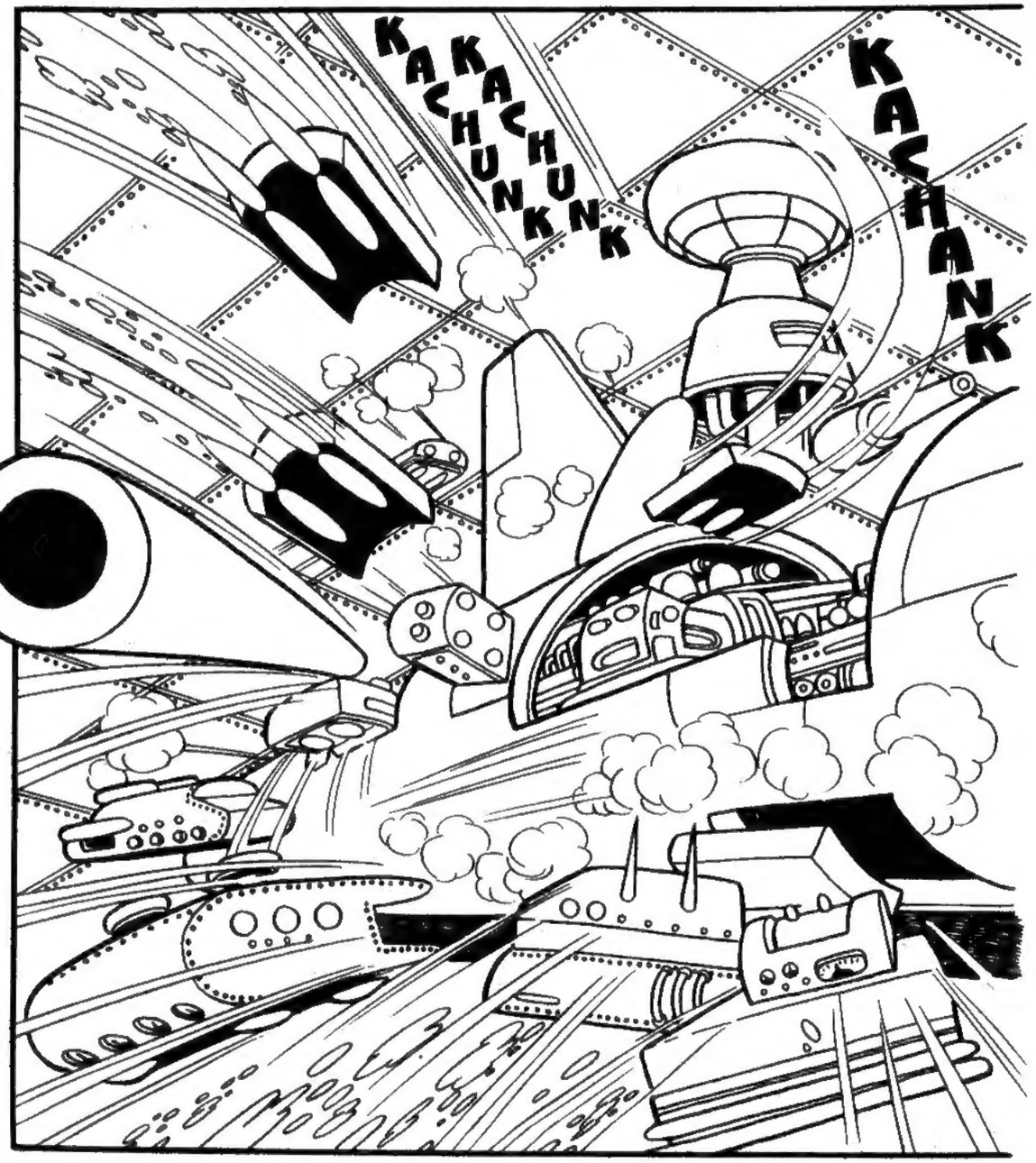
VOOMP

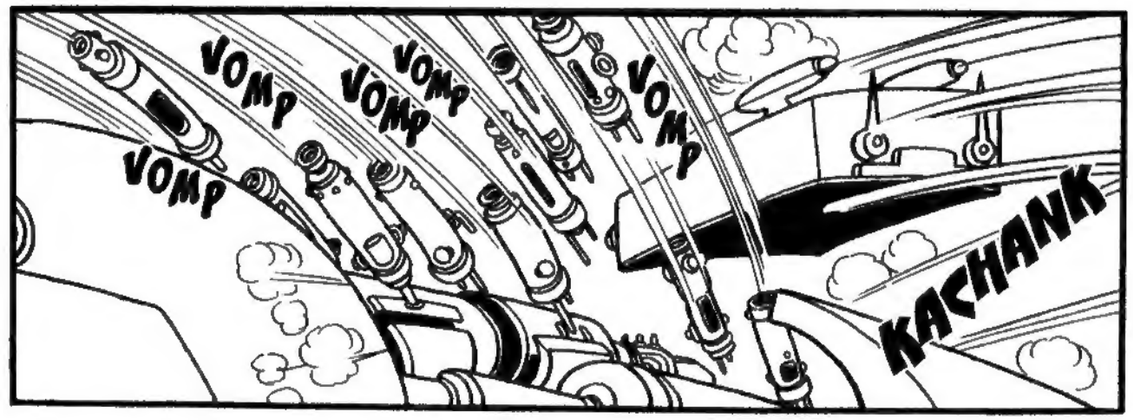
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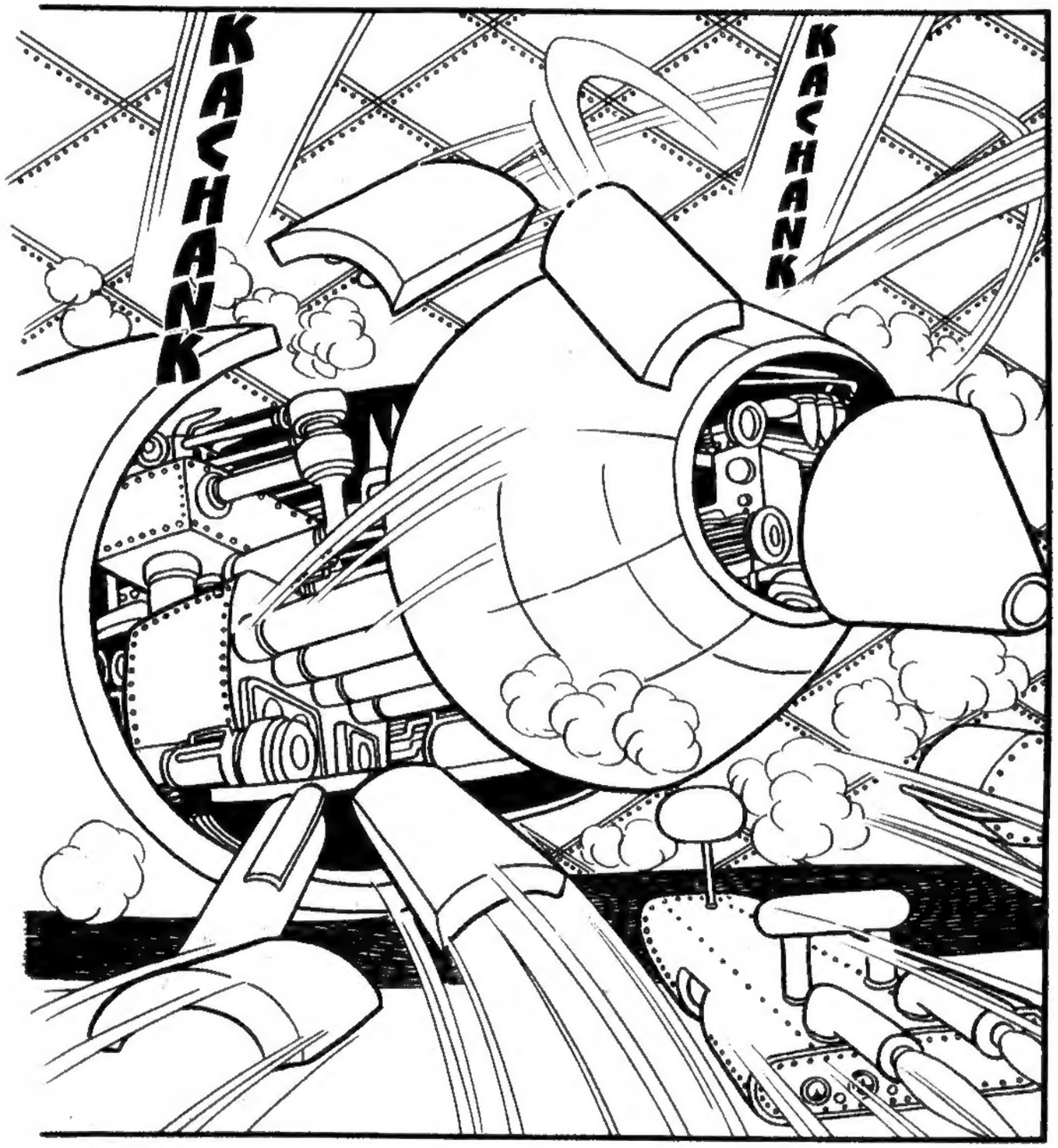
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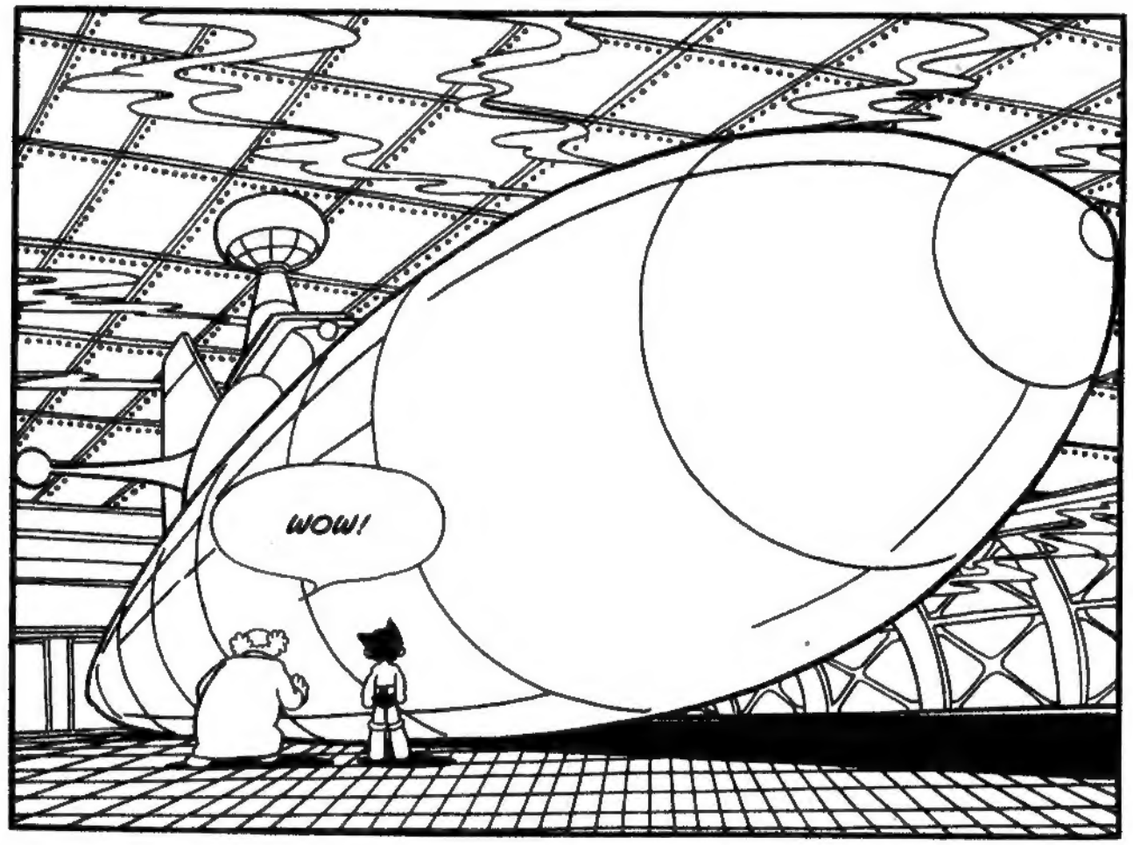

VOOSH
SHWIP


CHAK CHAK CHAK
CHAK
CHAK


KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHANK


VOMP
VOMP
VOMP
VOMP
VOMP
KACHANK

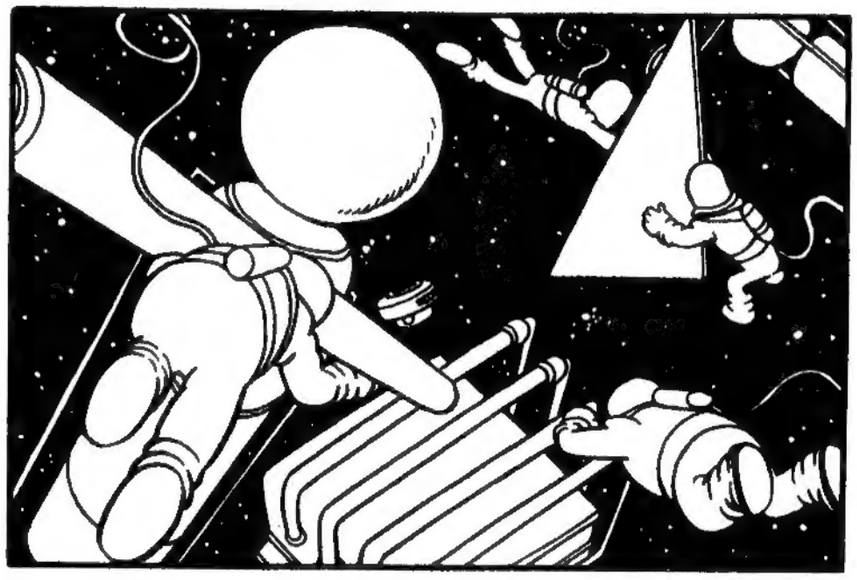

KACHANK
KACHANK

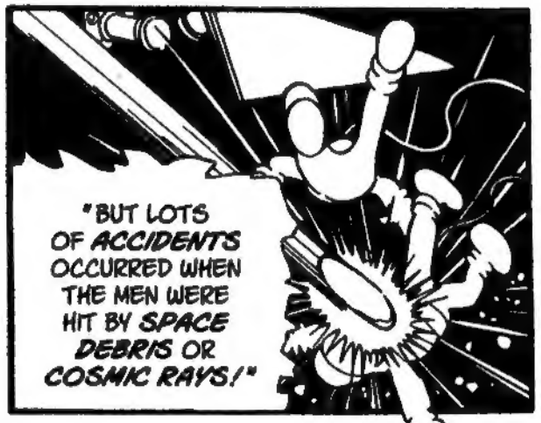


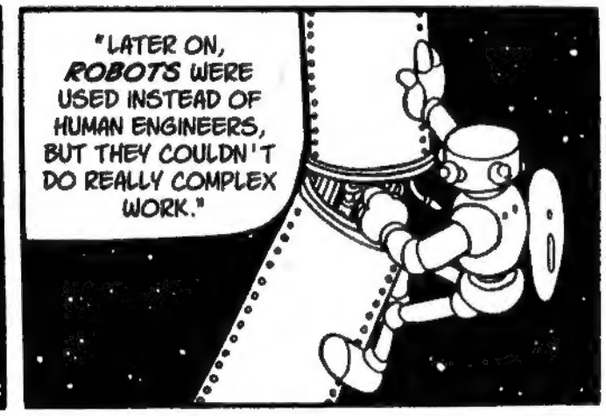


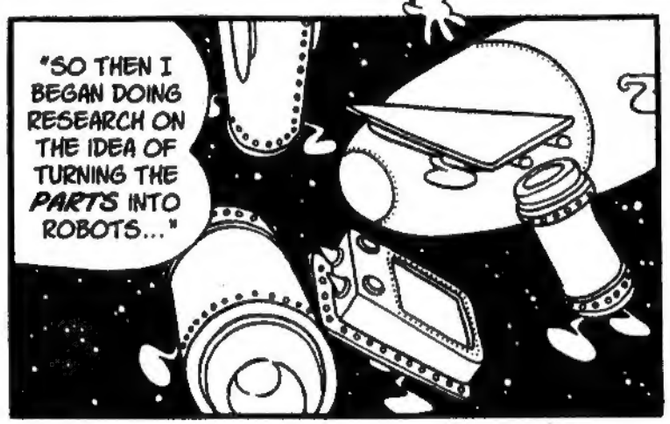


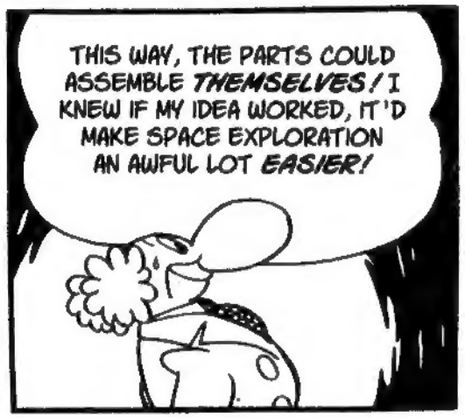
"LOTS OF PARTS AND MATERIALS HAVE TO BE LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE TO BUILD SPACE STATIONS AND SHIPS. IN THE PAST, HUMAN ENGINEERS DID THE ASSEMBLY, WHILE WEARING SPACE SUITS..."

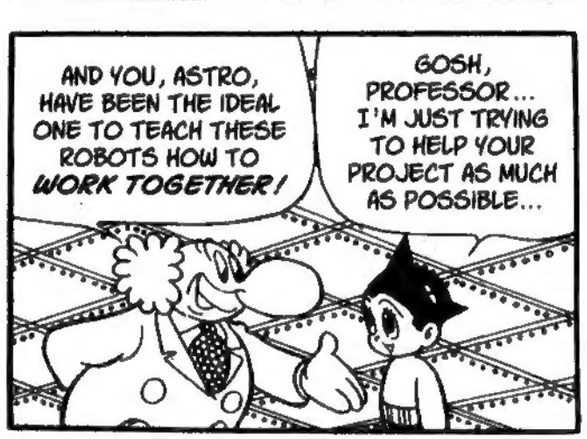








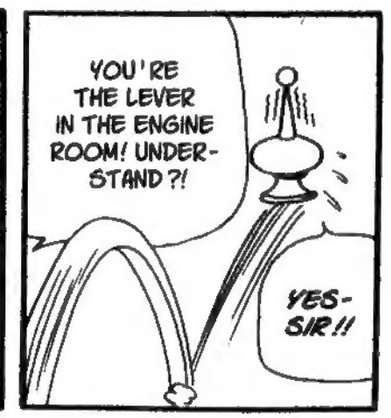



AND YOU, ASTRO, HAVE BEEN THE IDEAL ONE TO TEACH THESE ROBOTS HOW TO WORK TOGETHER!
GOSH, PROFESSOR... I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP YOUR PROJECT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...









VOOOSH VOOOSH

THREE DAYS LATER...

WELL, HERE WE ARE IN THE SAND DUNES OF TOTTORI PREFECTURE, ABOUT TO SECRETLY TEST THE SPACE SHIP...

FIVE MINUTES 'TIL THE FIRST TEST BEGINS...

FOUR MINUTES...

ASTRO!!

IT'S TIME, ASTRO... SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU CAN DO!

ALL PARTS LAUNCH!

VOOSH

VOOSH

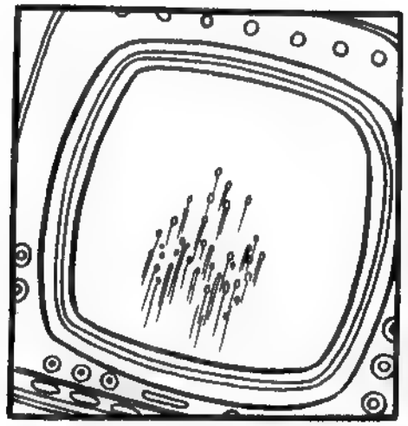
VROOM

VOOSH

ROAR

VOOOOSH

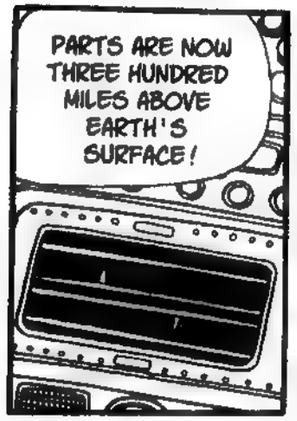
KAVVVVVOOOOOOM

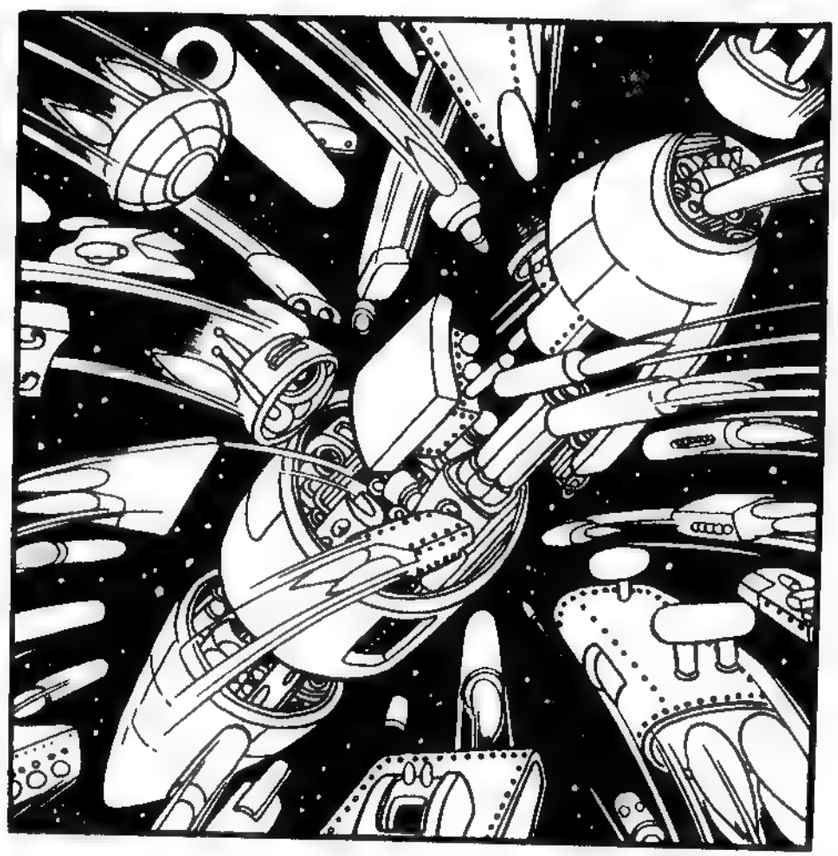



WOW! LOOK AT THEM CLIMB INTO THE SKY...

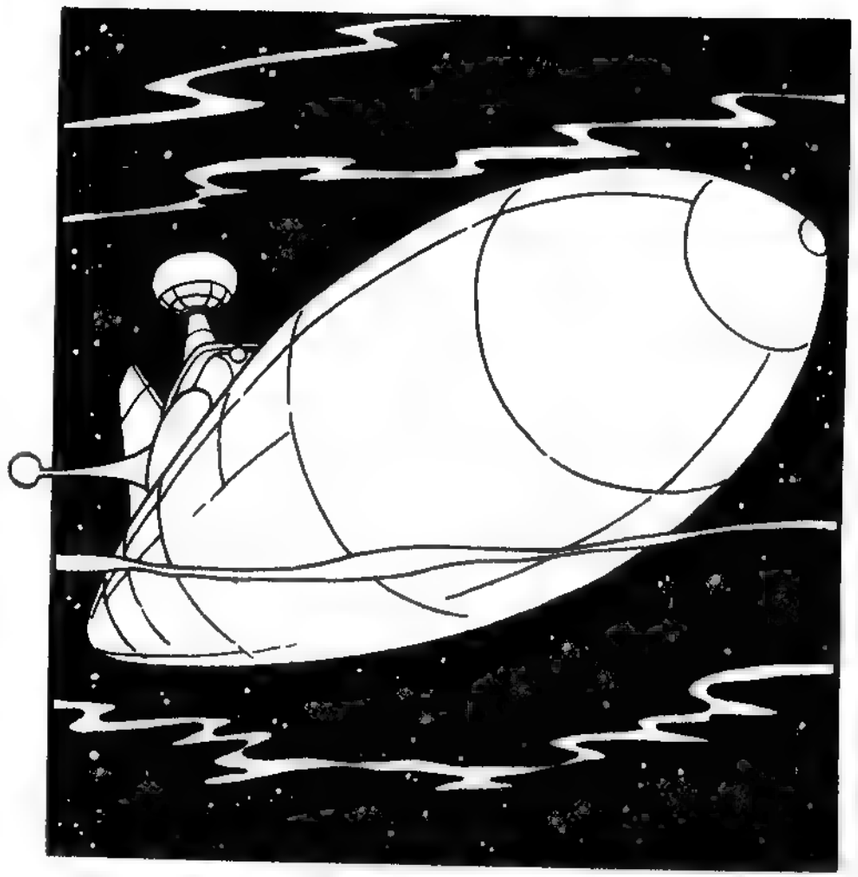

MOST IMPRES-SIVE, ASTRO BOY! WHERE WILL YOU ASSEMBLE THE ROCKET?
WAIT'LL THEY GO THROUGH THE STRATO-SPHERE...

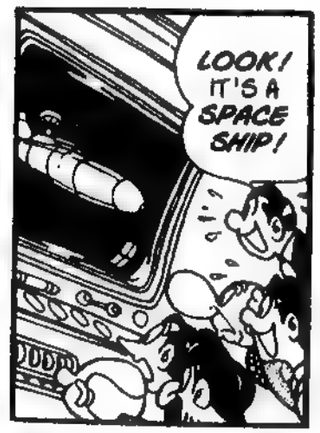


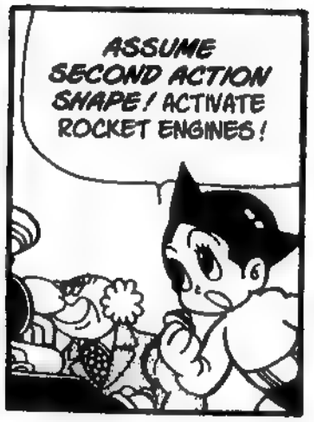

PARTS ARE NOW THREE HUNDRED MILES ABOVE EARTH'S SURFACE!



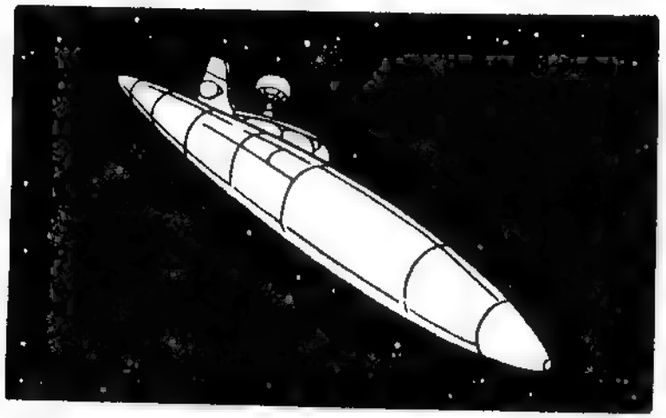

ASSUME FIRST ACTION SHAPE!




LOOK! IT'S A SPACE SHIP!


ASSUME SECOND ACTION SHAPE! ACTIVATE ROCKET ENGINES!

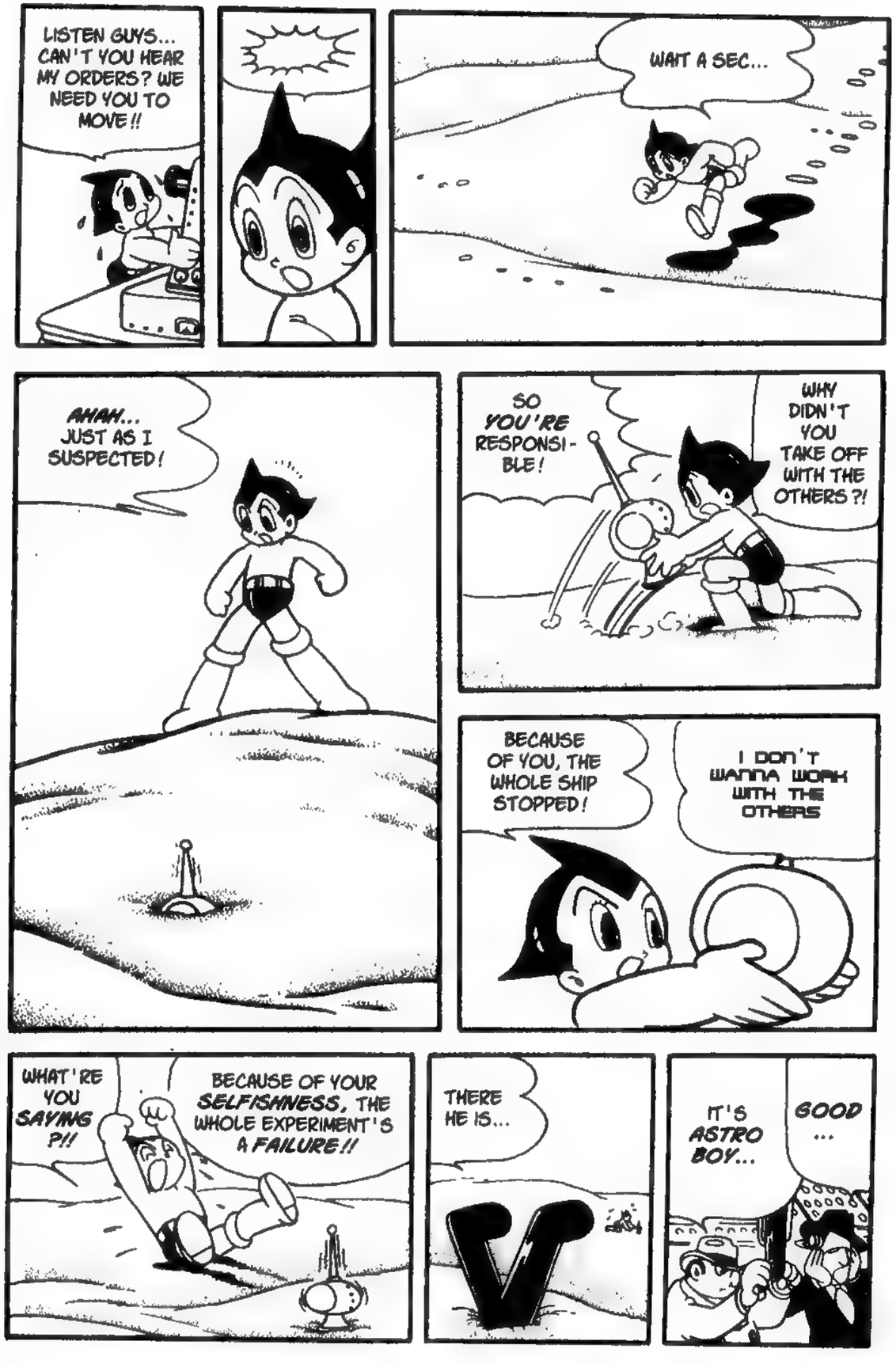

WHA? IT'S NOT MOVING AT ALL?!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE ENGINE IGNITION!

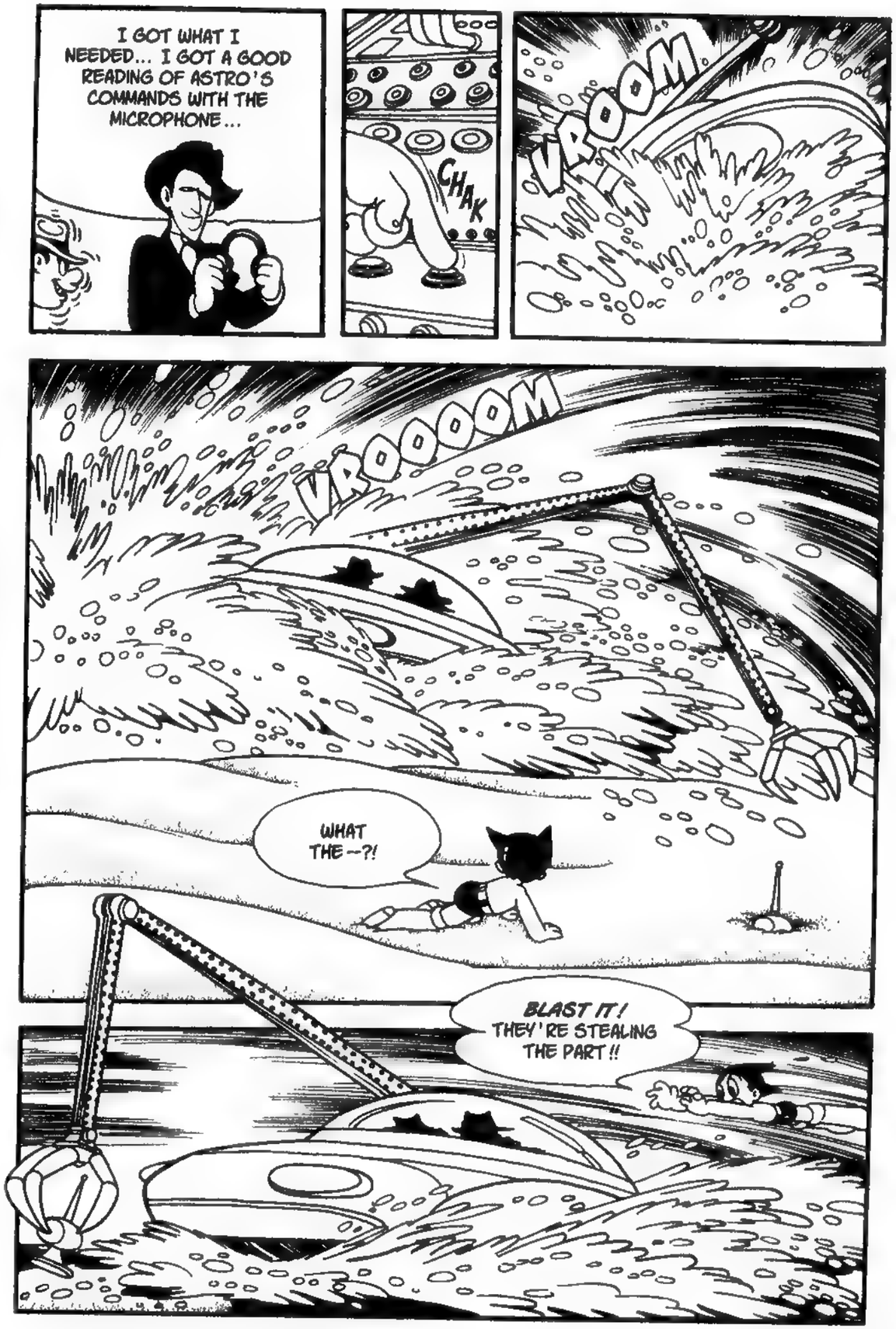



THE SHIP'S NOT MOVING, PROFES-SOR!
IT'S STOPPED !!


I REFUSE TO ADMIT THE TEST HAS FAILED! I KNOW I DID EVERY-THING RIGHT!


B-BUT WHY WON'T IT WORK?! THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW!! WHY?!


LISTEN GUYS... CAN'T YOU HEAR MY ORDERS? WE NEED YOU TO MOVE!!
WAIT A SEC...
AHAH... JUST AS I SUSPECTED!
SO YOU'RE RESPONSI-BLE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE OFF WITH THE OTHERS?!
BECAUSE OF YOU, THE WHOLE SHIP STOPPED!
I DON'T WANNA WORK WITH THE OTHERS
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING P!!
BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISHNESS, THE WHOLE EXPERIMENT'S A FAILURE!!
THERE HE IS...
IT'S ASTRO BOY...
GOOD ...


I GOT WHAT I NEEDED... I GOT A GOOD READING OF ASTRO'S COMMANDS WITH THE MICROPHONE...
CHAK
VROOM
VROOOOM
WHAT THE--?!
BLAST IT! THEY'RE STEALING THE PART!!

GIVE IT BACK!!

TAKE THIS!!

VOOSH

VOOOSH

YIKES!!

ZAAP

ZAAAP

ZAAP

ZAAP

ZAP

ZAP

STOP!!!

HEY, LEMME GO!

ACK!

SNAP

WHERE'D THAT WEIRD VEHICLE GO, ANYWAY?

SILENCE...

WONDER WHERE'S IT HIDING?

I CAN'T HEAR A THING...

WOW... SO IT WAS ABAN-DONED HERE!

WHAT A MESS... SOMEONE STOLE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!

BECAUSE OF THAT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN THE TEST AGAIN. AN' IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

HOW CAN I EVER MAKE IT UP TO THE PROFESSOR?

FAR, FAR TO THE SOUTH, AT THE EXTREMES OF THE JAPAN CURRENT, WAS A MAN-MADE ISLAND...

THE ENTIRE ISLAND WAS A SECRET BASE, USED FOR MYSTERIOUS PURPOSES...

CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP

IT'S BEEN OVER A *MONTH*, COLONEL ...

WE'VE HAD NO COMMUNI-CATION FROM JAPAN YET!

WELL... HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT THE SECRET BEHIND THAT ROBOT SPACE SHIP YET?

ER... UM... NOT YET...

IF THIS FAILS, REPLACE OUR LOCAL SPY... EVERYONE SO FAR HAS BEEN *USELESS*...

YES'M...

CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP

WE'VE *GOT* TO FIGURE OUT THE SECRET BEHIND THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP SOMEHOW... AND FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE ANY OTHER COUNTRY DOES...

COLONEL VEGA! WE'RE READY FOR YOU TO OBSERVE THE EXPERIMENT!

YOU SURE IT'LL WORK THIS TIME?

DON'T WORRY... THIS TIME IT'LL BE A HUGE SUCCESS, FOR SURE!

WE'LL PUT THAT JAPANESE ROBOT SPACE SHIP TO SHAME! I *GUARANTEE* IT!

START THE EXPERIMENT!

PHOMP

THAT'S THE SIGNAL! *LAUNCH 'EM!*

VOOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

VOOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK? WITH THIS SYSTEM, WE CAN AUTO-MATICALLY BUILD WARSHIPS FROM *SCRATCH!*

VOOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

VOOSH

KA CHANK CHAK

HMPH... YOU CALL *THAT A WARSHIP?!*

?

CLUB CLUB CLUB CLUB CLUB CLUB AMATEUR

SO WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE, *EH?!*

HEH HEH... GUESS THE SYSTEM'S STILL OUT OF WHACK... NEXT TIME IT'LL WORK... I *SWEAR!!*

HAAALP!

COLONEL VEGA! HAVE *MERCY!!*

WHAP

I'M SO *FRUSTRATED!!*

I CAN'T *STAND* THE THOUGHT OF LOSING TO THOSE YELLOW-FACED *JAPANESE SCIENTISTS!*

DON'T WORRY, COLONEL...

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS TELEGRAM WE JUST GOT FROM JAPAN...

THIS FELLOW HERE'S APPARENTLY THE ONE WHO HAS THE SECRET TO THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP!

ACCORDING TO OUR FAITHFUL SPY, NUMBER 6, HE'S A ROBOT NAMED *ASTRO BOY*, WITH 100,000 HORSE-POWER... THE *PRIDE OF JAPAN!*

NUMBER 6 HAS BEEN TAILING HIM, AND HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET HOLD OF THE SECRET...

MAYBE NUMBER 6 CAN BRING THE ROBOT HERE...

VOOOOSH

HEH HEH... ASTRO BOY'S PROBABLY GOING BLUE IN THE FACE RIGHT NOW, SEARCHING FOR THAT PART...

A ROBOT GOING BLUE IN THE FACE? I *LIKE* THIS!!

WELL, HERE WE ARE AT HEAD-QUARTERS!

WELL, NUMBER 6... YOU'RE BACK EARLY...

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

I'M PLEASED TO REPORT A MAJOR SUCCESS, COLONEL!

YOU'RE *LYING!!* I'VE ALREADY RECEIVED A REPORT!

IT SAYS YOU'VE *FAILED !!*

IT SAYS YOU'VE CONSISTENTLY UNDERESTIMATED THE DIFFICULTY OF FIGURING OUT THE SPACE SHIP'S SECRET!

AH, BUT COLONEL, I *BROUGHT* PART OF THE SHIP...

YOU *WHAT* ?!

PART OF THE *SHIP* ?!

IT'S THE ONLY THING THEY LEFT OUT WHEN THEY DID THE LAST TEST... BUT WITHOUT IT, THE SHIP *CAN'T FLY!*

ASTRO BOY KNOWS I STOLE THIS FROM HIM, SO WE CAN ALSO USE IT TO LURE HIM HERE!

THIS IS A LEVER FROM THE ROBOT SHIP'S ENGINE ROOM, COLONEL!

HMM... THIS IS REALLY A PART OF THE ROBOT SHIP?!

YES!

I...I THINK IT *SAID* SOME-THING...

A *PART* JUST REPLIED!!

I DON'T LOOK LIKE A ROBOT, BUT I CAN TALK

WOW... I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

LISTEN, COLONEL VEGA... LET'S MAKE THIS THING *LOOK* LIKE A REAL ROBOT! IF WE DO, IT'LL BE SO *GRATEFUL* IT'LL *NEVER* RUN AWAY FROM US...

VERY WELL THEN, LET'S *TRY* IT!

WAIT!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TURN IT INTO A ROBOT, I WANT IT TO HAVE A FACE LIKE *THIS!* UNDER-STAND?

WHY DOES COLONEL VEGA INSIST ON THIS FACE, SIR?

I DON'T KNOW, IT'S NOT OURS TO QUESTION WHY... THE COLONEL'S GOT HER *OWN* IDEAS...

LET'S BEGIN...

HERE'S THE ELECTRO-BRAIN...

I'LL PUT IT IN THIS BODY...

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

BZZZT BZZZT BZZZT

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

BZZZT BZZZT BZZZT

ALL RIGHT, UP YOU GET!

WELL P! YOU'RE STANDING ON YOUR OWN TWO LEGS, WITH TWO GOOD ARMS... HOW'S IT FEEL?

THESE... THESE ARE MY HANDS?

INDEED THEY ARE. YOU WANTED TO LOOK LIKE A *HUMAN*, RIGHT?

EH...EH EH EH...!

AAAARGH!! LEMMEE G-G-GO!

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ENJOY DOING THAT, YOU NUMB-SKULL! TRY'N ACT MORE *HUMAN*, OKAY?!

HO-HAY ...

HERE'S THE FINISHED PRODUCT, COLONEL!!

MY GOODNESS!

THE FACE IS *EXACTLY* AS YOU DESIRED... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOU REALLY *DID* IT, PROFES-SOR!

YOU CAN LEAVE NOW, PROFESSOR... I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ROBOT...

WHAT P!

DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED! JUST GET OUT OF HERE! THAT'S AN *ORDER!*

SLAM

SLAM

SWISH

COME OVER HERE...

HUG ME *HARDER*, CHILD! MOMMY'LL NEVER LET YOU GO! YOU'RE GOING TO REPLACE THE REAL SON I HAD, WHO DIED TWO YEARS AGO... CALL ME *MOMMY*, OKAY...? MOMMY!

GIVE ME A *HUG!* THAT'S AN *ORDER!*

MEANWHILE, AT JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

I'M SORRY, PROFES-SOR...

THE TEST WAS A *FAILURE* ...

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO... IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT... I JUST MADE A *MISTAKE*, THAT'S ALL... I'LL JUST HAVE TO REDO MY RESEARCH...

I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE PROFES-SOR...

I WONDER WHO STOLE THE ENGINE LEVER?

WHAT THE --P!

IT'S THAT WEIRD VEHICLE!!

WHO ARE YOU P!

HEH HEH HEH... HELLO, ASTRO BOY... IF YOU WANT THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP'S LEVER, COME ALONG WITH US!

NO! YOU SHOULD GIVE THE LEVER BACK TO ME!!

THE ROBOT SHIP WON'T MOVE WITHOUT IT! IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ALL!

WELL, I'M HONORED TO BE IN CHARGE OF IT...

IT'S ACTUALLY AT OUR HEADQUARTERS... ON THE SOUTHERN SEAS, FAR FROM HERE...

WELL, GIVE IT BACK! PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU NEEDS IT!

IZZATSO? COME WITH US TO GET IT, THEN...

I WILL, THEN...

KACHANK

CREAK CREAK

YOU'LL HAVE TO UNDERGO A CERTAIN UNPLEASANTNESS...

VOOSH

VROOM VROOOM

VROOM VROOM

IS THAT A MAN-MADE ISLAND?

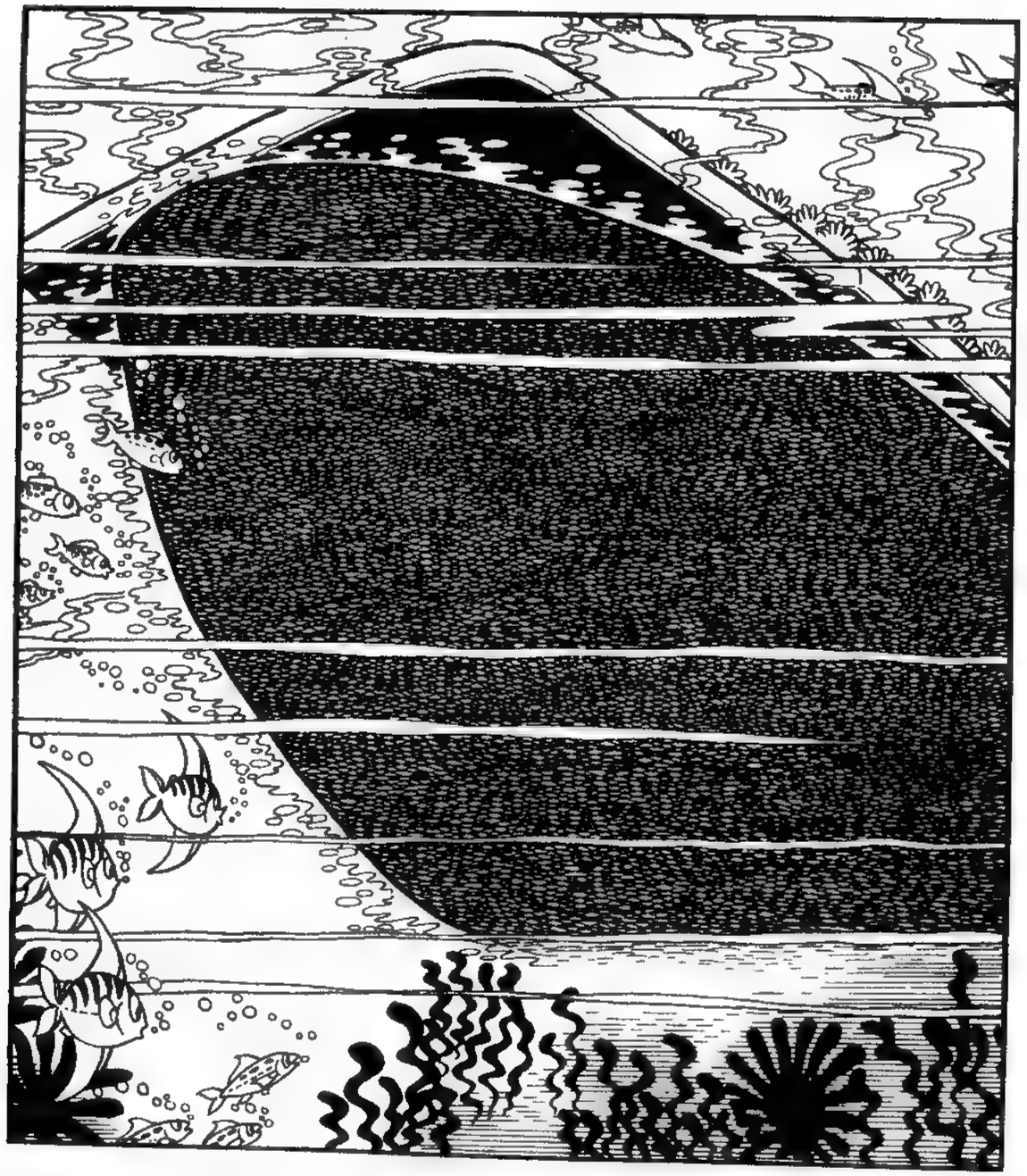
CORRECT. IT'S ONE OF THE BRONZE REPUBLIC'S SECRET BASES!

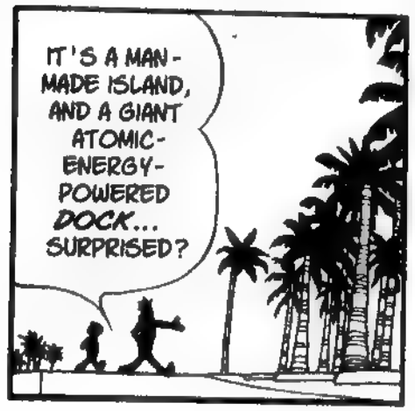
BRONZE REPUBLIC? IS THAT A COUNTRY? YOU MEAN YOU CAME TO JAPAN AS A SPY?

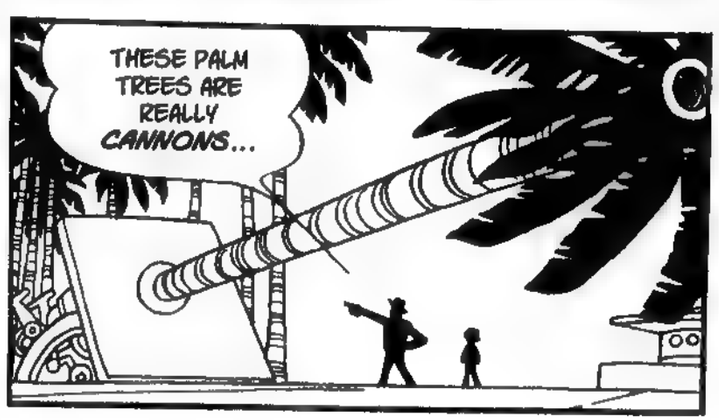
YOU COULD SAY THAT...

THIS PLACE IS FLOATING, ISN'T IT?

IT IS... WHAT A SMART ROBOT YOU ARE!

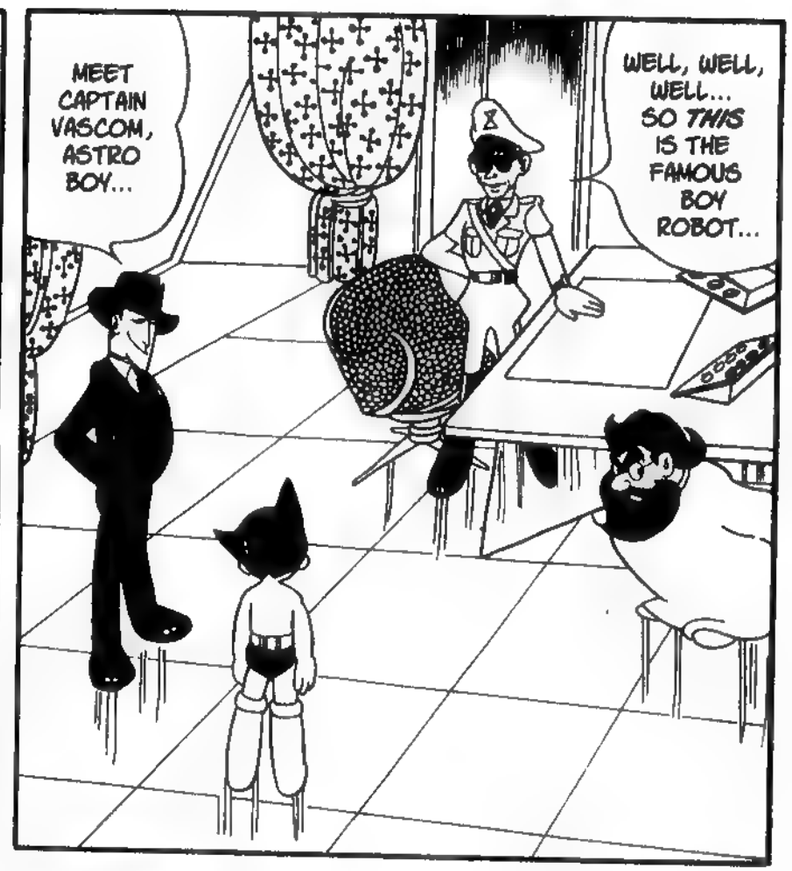



IT'S A MAN-MADE ISLAND, AND A GIANT ATOMIC-ENERGY-POWERED DOCK... SURPRISED?


THESE PALM TREES ARE REALLY CANNONS...

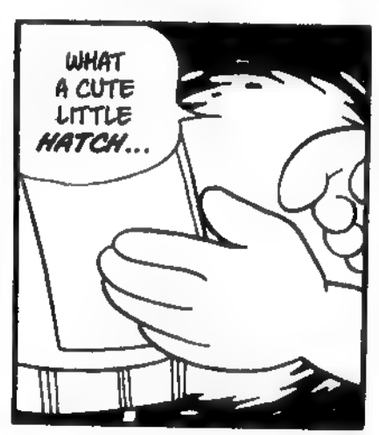

COME ON IN...

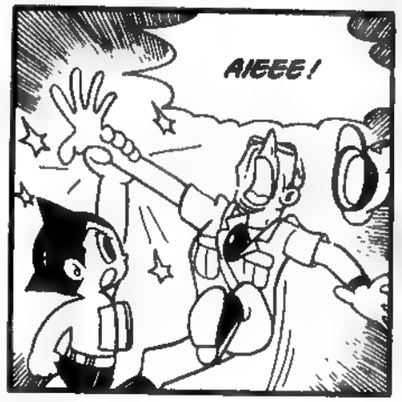

CAPTAIN VASCOM, SIR... I'VE BROUGHT ASTRO BOY...

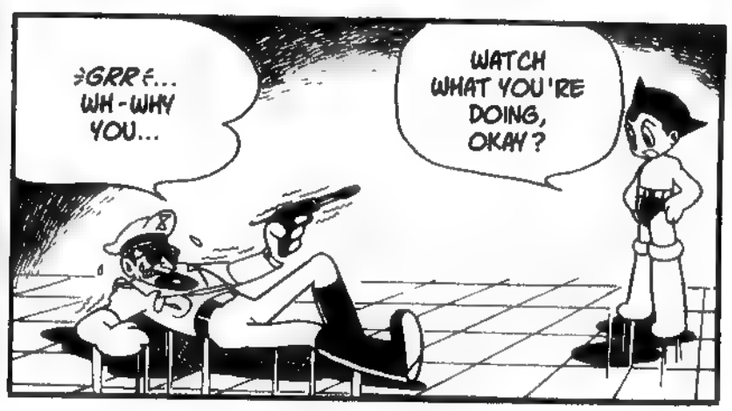

MEET CAPTAIN VASCOM, ASTRO BOY...
WELL, WELL, WELL... SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS BOY ROBOT...

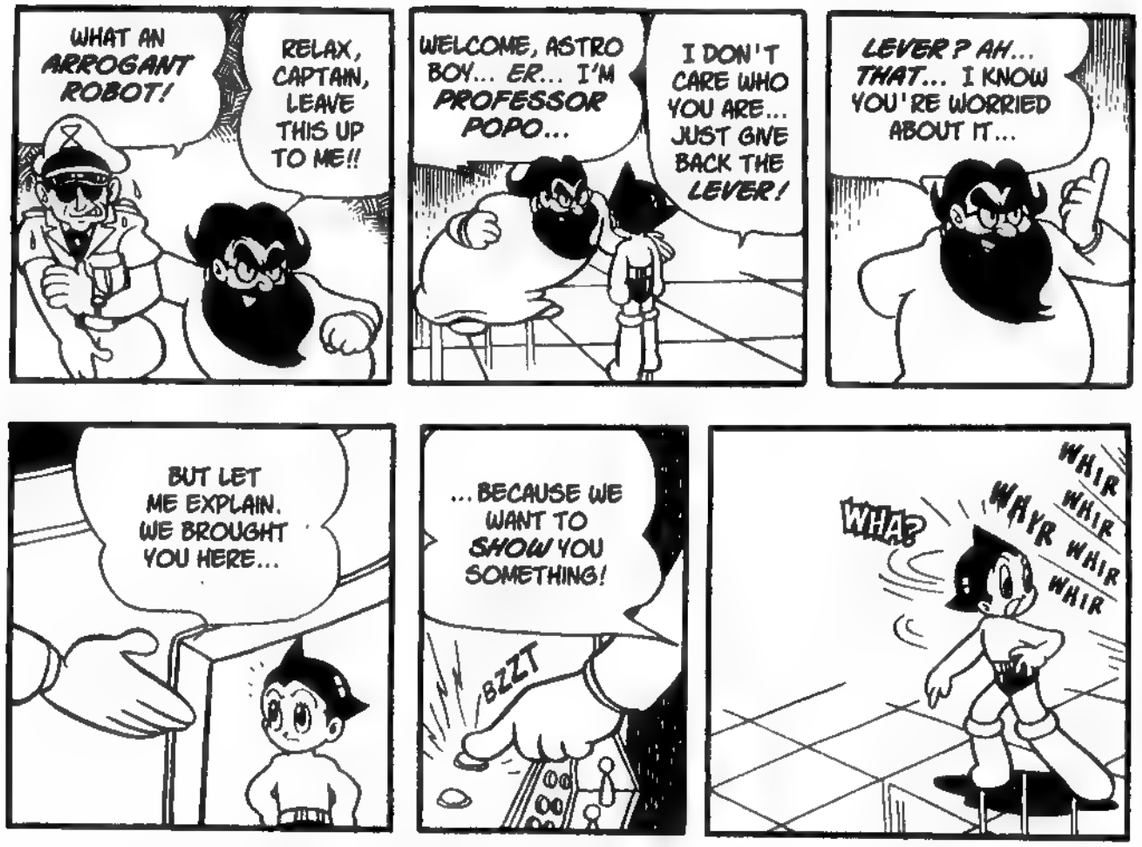

AWFULLY WELL MADE, FOR SOMETHING JAPANESE...
BUT YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE YELLOW, RIGHT?

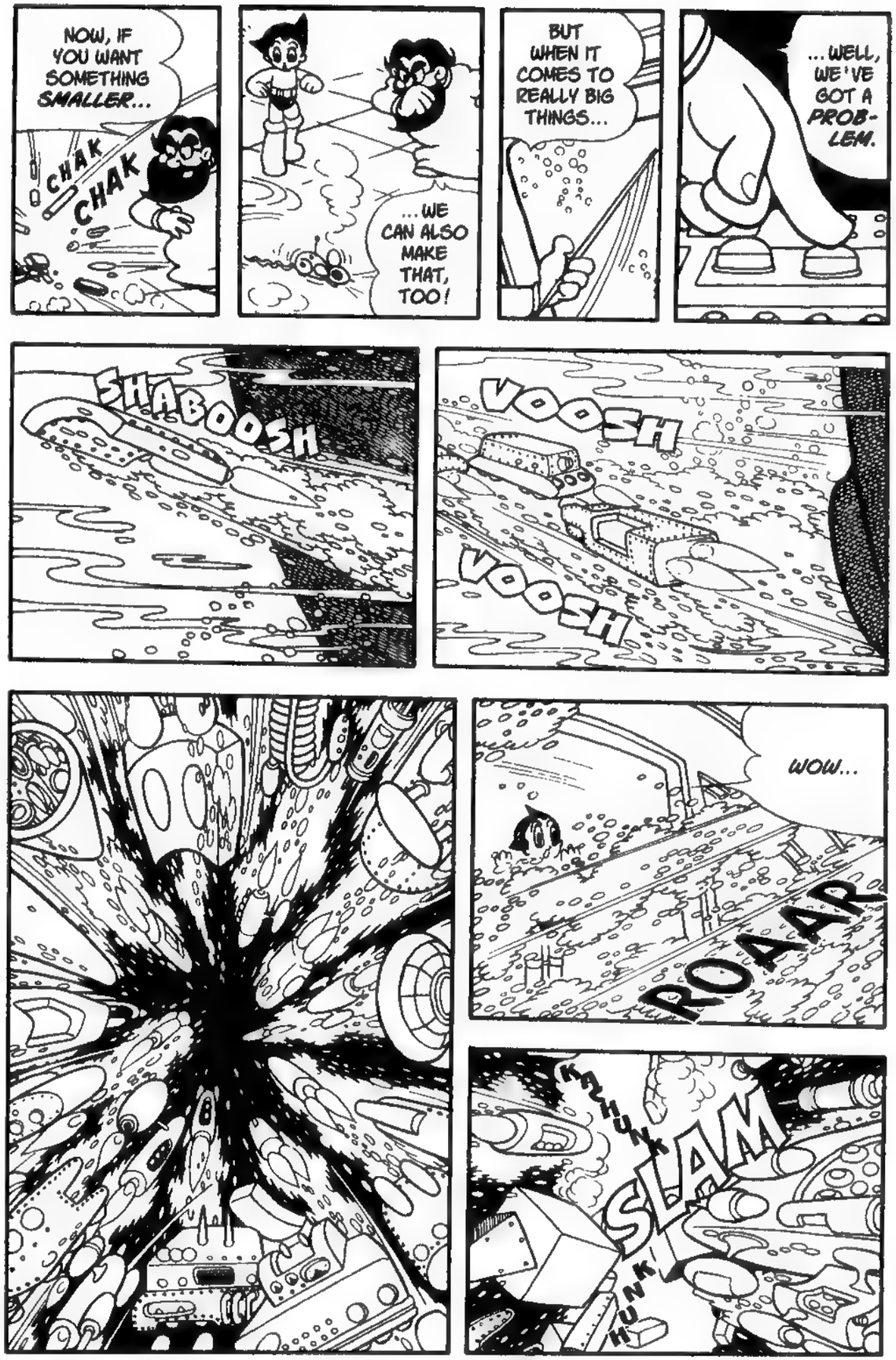

... AND SINCE YOU'RE JAPANESE, YOU OUGHT TO FALL APART EASILY, TOO...

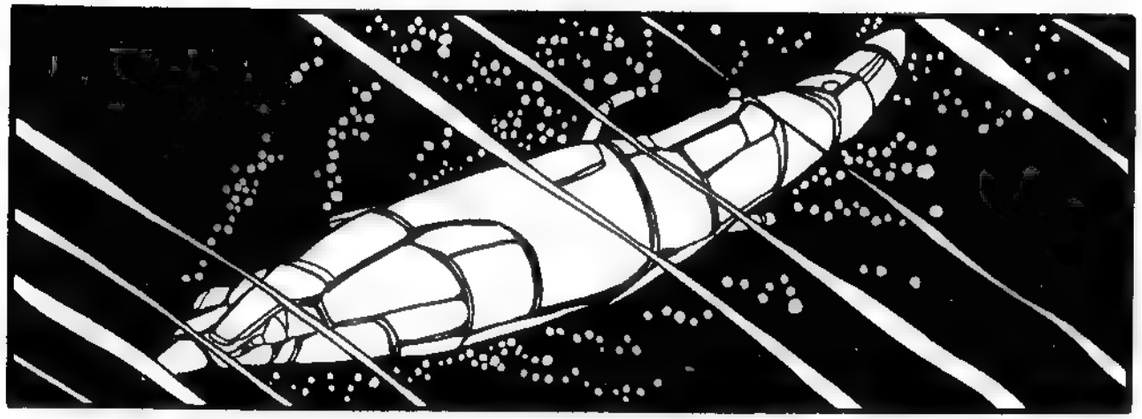

WHAT A CUTE LITTLE HATCH...


AIEEE!


GRR&...
WH-WHY YOU...
WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING, OKAY?


WHAT AN ARROGANT ROBOT!
RELAX, CAPTAIN, LEAVE THIS UP TO ME!!
WELCOME, ASTRO BOY... ER... I'M PROFESSOR POPO...
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE... JUST GIVE BACK THE LEVER!
LEVER? AH... THAT... I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IT...
BUT LET ME EXPLAIN. WE BROUGHT YOU HERE...
...BECAUSE WE WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
BZZT
WHIR WHIR WHIR WHIR WHIR
WHIAP
WHIRRR WHEEEE
KACHANG
CHANK
CHAK
WOW... IT'S A ROBOT!


NOW, IF YOU WANT SOMETHING SMALLER...
CHAK CHAK
...WE CAN ALSO MAKE THAT, TOO!
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO REALLY BIG THINGS...
...WELL, WE'VE GOT A PROB-LEM.
SHABOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH
WOW...
ROAAR
KAHUNK
SLAM
HUNK




WHAT IS IT?
HMPHF... IF IT'D WORK RIGHT, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SUBMARINE... BUT WE'RE HAVING A PROBLEM WITH THESE MORE COMPLICATED SHAPES...


I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BECAUSE THE INDIVIDUAL PARTS ARE ALL OKAY...

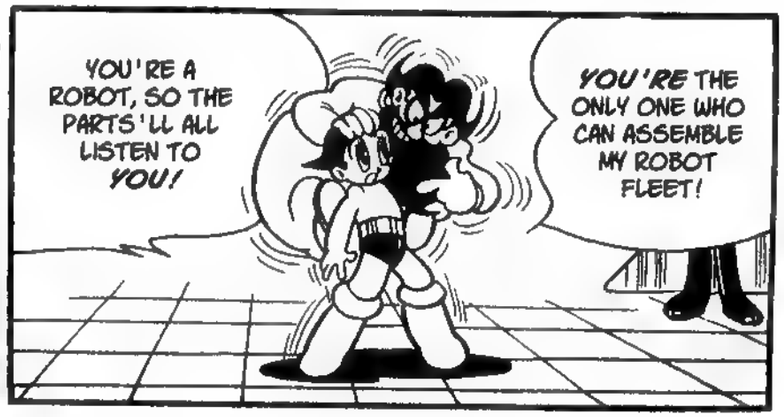

IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME !!


WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?!!


I SPENT A WHOLE YEAR TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT!


BUT I'VE FINALLY HIT ON THE SOLUTION!


YOU, ASTRO BOY! YOU'RE THE SOLUTION!

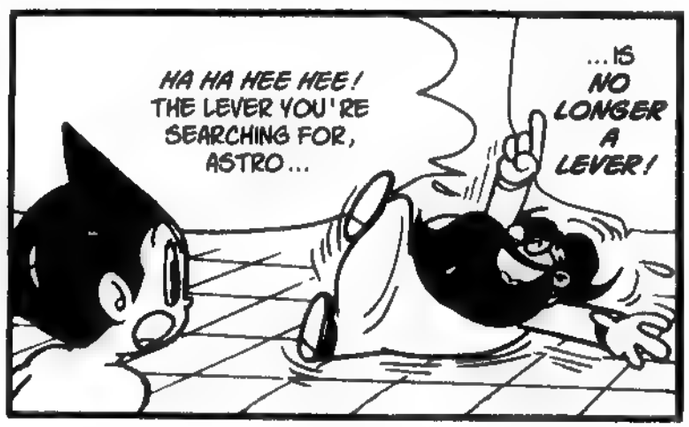

YOU'RE A ROBOT, SO THE PARTS'LL ALL LISTEN TO YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ASSEMBLE MY ROBOT FLEET!

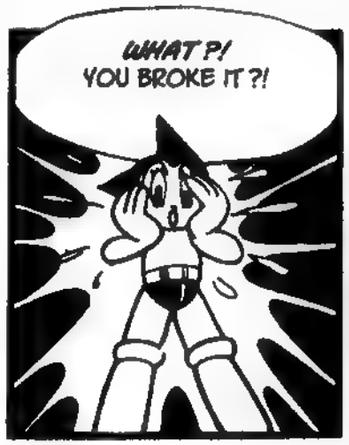

ASTRO BOY! YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME!

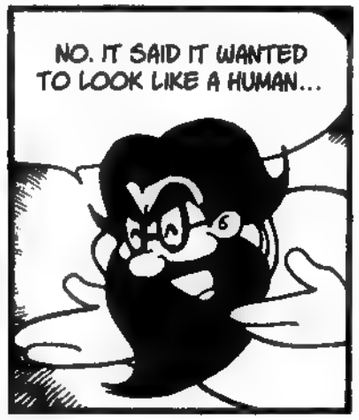

NOT SO FAST! GIVE ME BACK THE LEVER FIRST!

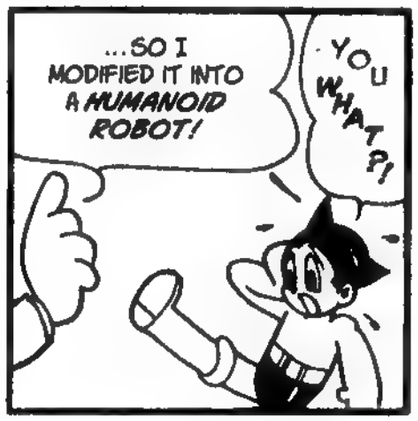

GIVE YOU BACK THE LEVER?!


WHAT A RIOT!
YOU WANT THE LEVER BACK?!
HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE!


HA HA HEE HEE! THE LEVER YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR, ASTRO...
...IS NO LONGER A LEVER!


WHAT?! YOU BROKE IT?!


NO. IT SAID IT WANTED TO LOOK LIKE A HUMAN...


...SO I MODIFIED IT INTO A HUMANOID ROBOT!
YOU WHAT?!


YOU WOULDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE IT ANYMORE! HA HA!


JAVAN

PLINK PLINK PLINK TRILL TRILL

WHY ARE YOU STARING AT MY HANDS?

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME TO BE SHAPED LIKE A HUMAN IT FEELS ODD...

REMEMBER, DEAR, WHEN YOU TALK TO ME, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A *HUMAN*...

YES, MOMMY...

THIS IS A SONG THAT MY REAL LITTLE BOY LOVED BEFORE HE DIED...

TO ME, THE NOTES JUST SOUND HIGH OR LOW, THAT'S ALL...

THAT'S OKAY... I JUST NEED YOU TO BE A REPLACEMENT FOR MY POOR LITTLE TOMMY, WHO DIED...

TOMMY ...?

TELL ME YOU LIKE THE SONG, OKAY?

HERE'S TOMMY AND HIS DADDY...

THIS IS YOU...

BOTH OF THEM DIED THREE YEARS AGO...

THEY WERE KILLED IN WAR ...

BOTH OF THEM WERE BLOWN TO PIECES IN A BOMB BLAST ...

AFTER THAT, I TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THIS SECRET FLOATING FORTRESS...

BUT I JUST CAN'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HUSBAND AND MY LITTLE BOY...

SO I NEED YOU TO STAY BY MY SIDE, TOMMY... TO STAY BY ME...

I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO...

RINGGGG

WHAT? WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?

YOU'VE BROUGHT *ASTRO BOY* OVER HERE?

I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY ...

DON'T LEAVE THIS ROOM. UNDERSTAND? THAT'S AN *ORDER!*

CLACK CLACK

CLACK

HI, I'M--

SILENCE!!

I'M HERE FOR THE *LEVER...*

SILENCE!!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A ROBOT, A DOG, OR A HUMAN. ANYONE WHO COMES TO THIS FORTRESS CAN *NEVER LEAVE!*

TO PROTECT OUR SECRETS, WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP YOU IN *CONFINEMENT!*

NO!!

KER SMASH

KABASH

NO ONE *EVER* ESCAPES FROM THIS FORTRESS... *HEH HEH...*

VOOOOOOOM

VOOOSH

VOOSH

ZOOM

HE'LL GET AWAY!!

HEE HEE... DON'T WORRY, COLONEL... THERE'S A WAY TO STOP HIM...

VOOSH VOOOSH VOOOSH

VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

WHA? TRY 'N STOP ME, WILL YOU?

WHISH WHISH WHISH

SWISH SWISH

HOW ABOUT THAT, EH? I'LL MAKE HIM FIGHT AND USE UP HIS ENERGY!

AND WHEN HE'S OUT OF ENERGY, HE'LL CRASH! AND THEN ASTRO'LL BE ALL OURS, TO DO AS WE PLEASE!!

HEY, LEVER FOR THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

LEVER!! WHAT!

I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU ARE OR WHETHER YOU LOOK LIKE A HUMAN OR NOT... JUST LISTEN TO ME!!

THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP WON'T WORK WITHOUT YOU!! EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU TO COME BACK!!

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S IN A REAL BIND WITHOUT YOU!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, LEVER? I'M ALMOST OUT OF ENERGY MYSELF!!

BUT EVEN IF I COLLAPSE AND AM SMASHED...

...YOU'VE GOTTA GO BACK TO PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S PLACE, OKAY?!

FARE-WELL, LEVER...

HERE GOES NOTHING!

ASTRO!

KABOOOSH

GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB

.....
.....

WE FINALLY GOT HIM!!

WOOOSH

WOOOSH

LOOKS LIKE HE'S *BROKEN* ...

HEH HEH... JUST OUT OF ENERGY, THAT'S ALL... BUT IT MEANS HE'S A LIFELESS DOLL...

...FOR ME TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE!

OKAY, MEN! WE'LL TAKE HIM APART AND ANALYZE HIS STRUCTURE...

BRING HIM THIS WAY!

YESSIR YESSIR AYE AYE...

ASTRO... FORGIVE ME... I DON'T KNOW WHY I'VE BEEN SO SELFISH...

...I'VE GOT TO GO BACK TO JAPAN, LIKE YOU SAID...

...BUT BEFORE I LEAVE...

...I'VE GOTTA SAVE ASTRO!!

KACHAK

WE'LL TAKE ASTRO BOY APART...

...AND ANALYZE HIM DOWN TO THE LAST *SCREW!*

AN *AMAZING* ROBOT...

A TRUE WORK OF *ART*...

I'LL SAY...

SO WE'RE GOING TO CREATE A ROBOT *IDENTICAL* TO HIM?

THAT'S RIGHT...

SOUNDS LIKE BEING A *COPY CAT!*

WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT?!

WE'RE NOT STEALING ANYTHING! WE'RE JUST USING HIM AS A MODEL! STOP GRUMBLING AND *GET TO WORK!*

HERE'S AN EYEBALL...

BE CAREFUL! THE SLIGHTEST DEVIATION FROM HIS DESIGN, AND IT WON'T WORK!

SUNNY SIDE UP

I FINISHED HIS REAR END!

THERE'S NO LATCH ON HIS BELLY BUTTON...

EYE-LASHES'RE DONE!

WE'VE REPLICATED ALL THE PARTS, PROFESSOR!

GOOD! NEXT WE'LL ASSEMBLE THEM, USING ASTRO AS OUR MODEL!

WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE ORIGINAL ASTRO?

AH, JUST PUT HIM IN A CLOSET SOME-WHERE...

WE'LL LET THE ORIGINAL ASTRO SNOOZE IN HERE FOR AWHILE... THE REPLICA'LL SERVE US FINE...

BLAST IT...

BEEP BEEP!

PRO-FESSOR POPO... COME TO THE COMMAND CENTER IMMEDI-ATELY...

B-BUT I'M MODIFYING ASTRO BOY RIGHT NOW!

YOU CAN DO THAT LATER... THIS IS URGENT!

PROFESSOR POPO... WE'VE RECEIVED AN ORDER FROM THE FATHERLAND... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MOVE THE ISLAND *IMMEDIATELY* AND GO INTO ACTION!

MOVE THE ISLAND P!

IT SAYS, "YOU ARE TO MOVE THE ARTIFICIAL ISLAND AND CARRY OUT A SNEAK ATTACK ON THE ATOMIC POWER BASE ON GANGARA ISLAND. DESTROY THE BASE COMPLETELY!"

ACK!

OUCH!

ATTACK GANGARA ISLAND?!

ATTACK THEIR ATOMIC BASE?!

"RIGHT. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE OVER THE U.N. MONITORING OUTPOST ON GANGARA..."

"... AND USE THE BASE TO LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE ON *JAPAN*, THE *UNITED STATES*, AND THE *SOVIET UNION!*"

A-AND *THEN* WHAT?!

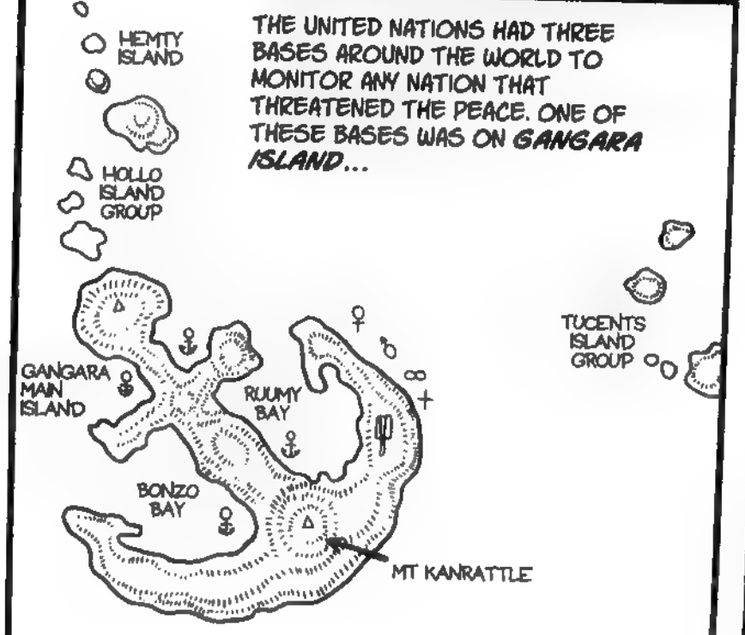
WELL, THIS IS ALL WE'VE BEEN TOLD ...

EVERYTHING ELSE IS UP TO THE FATHER-LAND...

BUT THESE ARE OUR *ORDERS!* WE'RE TO TAKE OFF FOR GANGARA!

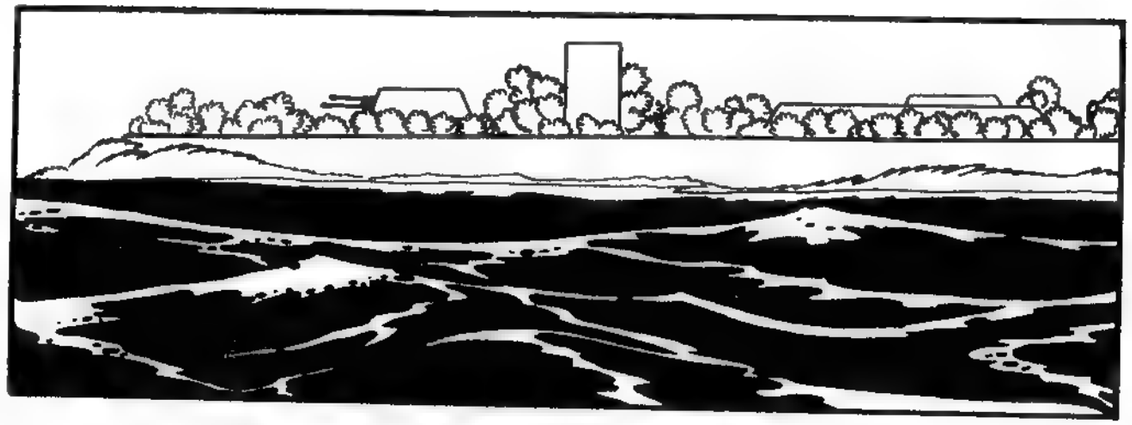
MAP OF GANGARA ISLAND BASES

THE UNITED NATIONS HAD THREE BASES AROUND THE WORLD TO MONITOR ANY NATION THAT THREATENED THE PEACE. ONE OF THESE BASES WAS ON *GANGARA ISLAND*...



BONG BONG BONG

CLANK CLANK CLANK



ALL RIGHT, MEN... IN FIVE DAYS WE ARRIVE OFF THE COAST OF GANGARA ISLAND!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO GIVE THE WORLD A *SURPRISE!*

ON OCTOBER 10, AT SIX IN THE MORNING, WE WILL COMMENCE OUR ATTACK!

AND OUR TARGET IS...

...THE DOZENS OF *UNITED NATIONS WARSHIPS* ANCHORED IN THE WATERS OF RUUMY BAY, ON GANGARA ISLAND...

...AS WELL AS THE *MISSILE BASE* ON MT. KANRATTLE!

WE SHALL BOMBARD THE ENEMY...

...WITH OUR CANNONS...

...AND COMPLETELY DESTROY THEM WITH OUR *ROBOT FLEET!*

LONG AGO, MEN, JAPAN STAGED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SNEAK ATTACK ON *PEARL HARBOR*...

WE'RE GOING TO ACHIEVE THE SAME EFFECT WITH *OUR* ATTACK!

LONG LIVE THE BRONZE REPUBLIC!

LIVO!

LONGO!

VOOOSH

VOOSH

COLONEL... I'VE FINISHED THE *ASTRO BOY REPLICA!*

REALLY?! SHOW ME!

YES'M...

HEH HEH HEH... THE EXPERIMENT'S A *TOTAL* SUCCESS... A *PERFECT REPLICA* OF ASTRO BOY AWAITS YOU, COLONEL!

COME OVER HERE, ASTRO!

IS THIS REALLY A REPLICA?

YES'M... YOU'D NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE...

BUT THIS ASTRO BOY'LL OBEY *OUR COMMANDS!*

OKAY, SHOW US THE TEST!

RIGHT AWAY!

VOOSH

VOMP

VOMP

VOOSH

VOOSH

BOOM

WHY, THIS IS *WONDERFUL!*

NOT BAD, EH?

WOW! YOU CREATED AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER!

AMAZING, ISN'T IT?

IT'S A GREAT CARRIER! GOOD JOB, PROFESSOR POPO!

ON THE DAY WE ATTACK GANGARA ISLAND, WE CAN ASSEMBLE THIS AIRCRAFT CARRIER RIGHT UNDER THE ENEMIES' NOSES!

THEY'LL BE TER-RIFIED!!

I'LL SAY! AND THAT'S WHEN WE ATTACK!

OCCUPYING GANGARA ISLAND'LL BE EASY AS PIE, COLONEL!

WELL DONE, PRO-FESSOR!

BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS REPLICA'S REALLY IDENTICAL TO ASTRO BOY?

HE'S GOT THE SAME STRENGTH, BUT HIS HEAD'S A BIT EMPTY, SO HE'S NOT AS CLEVER AS ASTRO IS...

BUT HE DOES WHAT WE TELL HIM TO...

...AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR OUR PURPOSES!

AH, WE'RE FINALLY ON THE VERGE OF A BATTLE...

JUST WATCH, DEAR... I'LL BE A COMMANDER YOU CAN BE PROUD OF!

TOMMY?

TOMMY?

WHERE ARE YOU?

CREEAK

HEY, ASTRO...

ASTRO...

COME ON... GET UP!

WHAT'LL I DO...?

HE WON'T BUDGE...

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE FINDS ME...

HE MUST BE OUT OF ENERGY...

WONDER WHERE I CAN GET HIM REFUELED?

WOOSH

FLASH

FLASH

UH OH...

SPLISH
FLASH
I CAN'T SEE!!
FWP
TOMMY...
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE'RE YOU HIDING?!
TOMMY!
COME ON OUT...
TOMMY!
WHERE COULD HE POSSIBLY HAVE GONE? OR HIDDEN?
WHAT'S GOING ON, PROFESSOR POPO?!
WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY, COLONEL! THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY'S BEEN STOLEN!
SOMEONE DOVE INTO THE OCEAN WITH HIM TO ESCAPE!!
WHAT?! HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?!
HAVE THE ASTRO REPLICA SEARCH THE SEA!

GO FIND YOUR IDENTICAL TWIN, ASTRO! HE'S SOMEWHERE ON THE OCEAN! I DON'T CARE IF YOU SMASH HIM A BIT, JUST BRING HIM BACK!
SPLISH SPLASH
VOOOSH
SPLASH
FOUND YOU! DON'T EVEN TRY TO GO UNDER WATER!
SPLOOSH
STOP!
UH OH... WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED!
IT'S NO USE, THEY'RE CATCHING UP TO US...
I KNOW... I CAN JUST SINK TO THE BOTTOM...

BUT FIRST, I'LL GIVE ASTRO ALL MY ENERGY...

THERE'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'LL LET YOU MOVE ABOUT, ASTRO...

FAREWELL, ASTRO... MAKE SURE YOU ESCAPE!

WHA ?!

UH OH...

VOOSH

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME, ASTRO BOY!

HEY! HOW COME YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME ?!

WHO CARES ?! I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU BACK!

YOU WHAT ?! YOU MEAN YOU'RE IN WITH THE BAD GUYS ?!

YEAH, AND THEY SAID I COULD SMASH YOU UP A BIT!

VOOSH

BASH

HMPH! THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO ?!

GOSH... FEELS LIKE I'M HITTING MYSELF!

THIS IS WEIRD!

WHAT'RE YOU MUMBLING ?! HERE I COME!

POW

POW

POW

TAKE THIS!

I...I'M RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY!

HA HA! YOU CALL THAT 100,000 HORSEPOWER? WHAT A JOKE!

I DO HAVE 100,000 HORSEPOWER, BUT I CAN'T USE IT ALL NOW!

HA HA! FOR SUCH A WEAKLING, YOU SURE TALK BIG!

TAKE THIS, YOU SUCKER!!

BOOM

SPLASH

HEY, WHERE'D YOU GO?!

COME ON OUT, YOU *COWARD!!*

GUESS YOU MET YOUR MATCH, EH?!!

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO RUN AWAY! LIKE A DOG, WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS!

ANY TIME YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU A LESSON, JUST CALL! *HA HA!*

BLAST IT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IMPOSTER'S STRONGER THAN ME!!

BUT I'LL GET BACK AT HIM LATER!

RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER FIND TOMMY...

I'D BETTER TAKE HIM SOMPLACE *SAFE*...

GOOD THING I SAVED ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THIS...

SPLASH

NOTHING BUT OPEN SEA IN SIGHT... WONDER WHERE LAND IS?

IF ONLY I HAD ENOUGH ENERGY TO FLY RIGHT NOW...

WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S AN *ISLAND* OVER THERE!

SPLISH

VOOSH

VOOOSH

GANGARA ISLAND BASE

OCTOBER 10

SHWIP

SHWIP

VOOSH

FOOMP FOOMP

.....

NO SIGNS OF ACTIVITY ON MT. KANRATTLE...

ENEMY SHIPS ON RUUMY BAY ARE QUIET, TOO...

OUR SNEAK ATTACK'LL BE A *SURE THING*, COLONEL!

IT'LL BE A DAY OF *HONOR* FOR THE BRONZE REPUBLIC, CAPTAIN!

ALL RIGHT MEN! ASSUME COMBAT STATIONS! BEGIN BOMBARD-MENT!

FIRE!

BOOM

BOOM BOOM

VOMP VOMP ROAR ROAR

VOOM VOOM VOOM VOOM

ENEMY BASE

KABOOOM

BOOMBA BOOOM

ROAR

VOMP

SCREEEEEE

BOOOM BOOM

SEND OUT THE ROBOT BRIGADE!

NOW DEPLOYING ROBOT BRIGADE!!

CHAAARGE!

TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP

VOOOSH VOOOSH VOOOSH

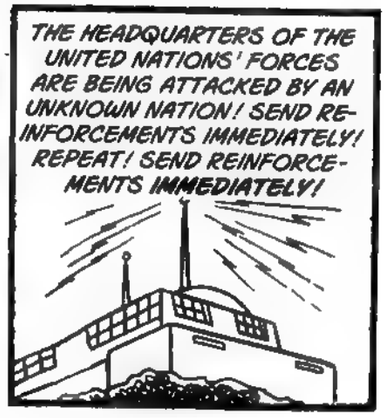
VOOOSH

SHWEEEE SHWEEEE

TRAMP TRAMP


FOMP FOMP


CLANKETY CLANKETY CLANK


THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS' FORCES ARE BEING ATTACKED BY AN UNKNOWN NATION! SEND REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY! REPEAT! SEND REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY!

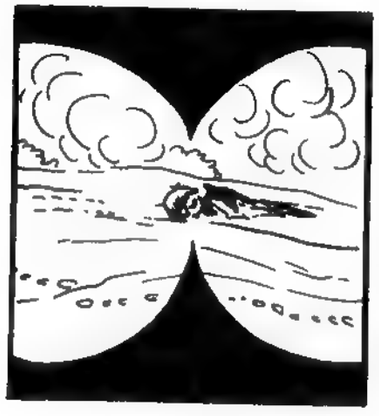

KA BOOOM


THAT WAS AN S.O.S. SIGNAL FROM THEM, BUT ONE BOMB SHUT THEM UP GOOD!
A LITTLE LATE FOR AN S.O.S., I'D SAY...


HEADQUARTERS TO 3RD INFANTRY CORPS IN THE FIELD...
COMMENCE ASSAULT ON PEAK OF MT. KANRATTLE IN TWENTY MINUTES!

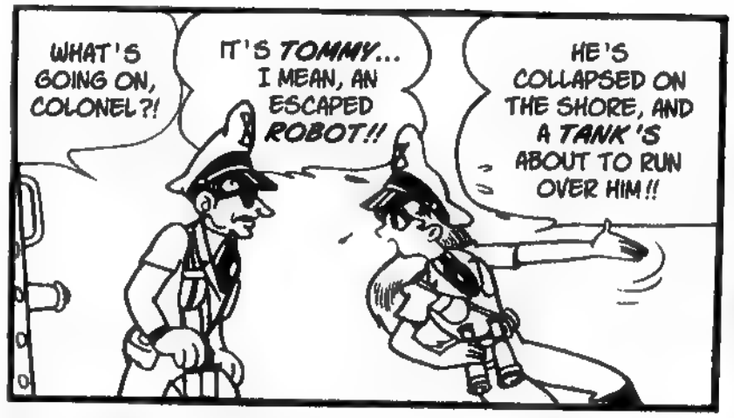

WAIT!


CONGRAT-ULATIONS, COLONEL VEGA!!
WITH THIS VICTORY, MY JOB'S DONE...

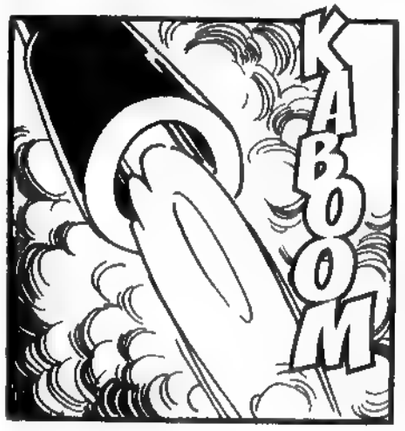


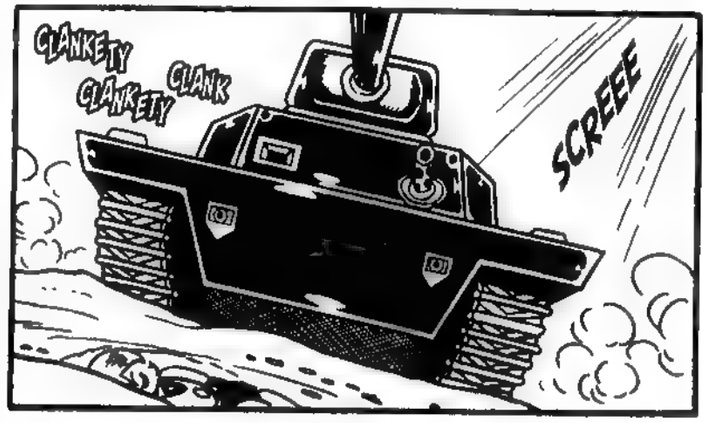

THAT'S TOMMY!!

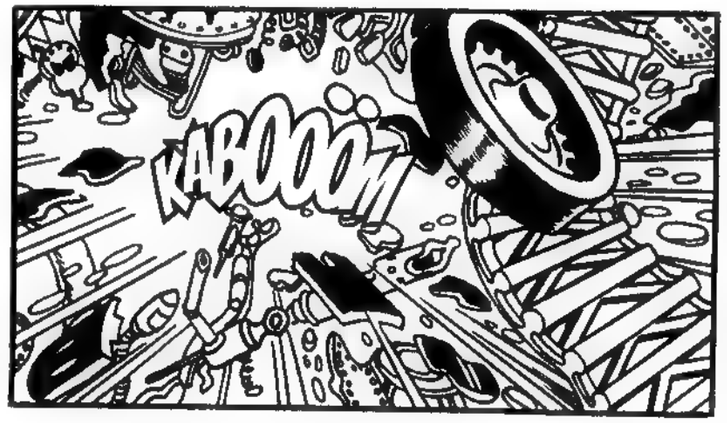

CLANKETY CLANK
CLANKETY CLANK


WHAT'S GOING ON, COLONEL?!
IT'S TOMMY... I MEAN, AN ESCAPED ROBOT!!
HE'S COLLAPSED ON THE SHORE, AND A TANK'S ABOUT TO RUN OVER HIM!!

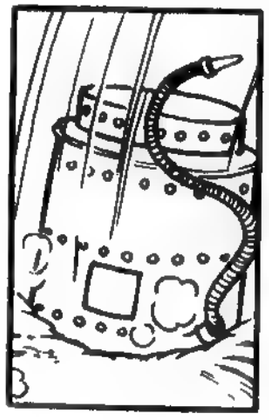

HMM... TOO LATE FOR HIM, I'D SAY...
NO! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THAT TANK!


KABOOM

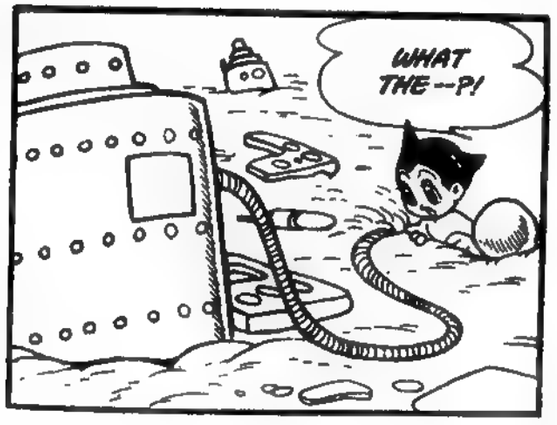

CLANKETY CLANK
CLANKETY
SCREEE


KABOOOM






POIK


WHAT THE--P!

IT'S THE TANK'S *ENERGY* TUBE!

HERE WE GO, WITH A *REFILL!!*

YAY! I'M SAVED!

NOW I'VE GOT 100,000 HORSE-POWER AND FEEL LIKE A MILLION BUCKS!

HERE I GO!

KERPOW

SLAM

BAM

I'LL MAKE A JUNK PILE OUT OF YOU IDIOTS!

KAPOW

SCREEEE

WOOOM

WHOMP

WHOMP

SCREE

SHWIP

SHWIP

SCREE

NOW TO SINK EVERY LAST SHIP!!

SCREEE

TAKE THIS!

KA VOOOM

WHA--P!

TH-THAT'S *ASTRO BOY!*

HE'S TAKING ON MY ROBOT FLEET...

...AND *DESTROY-ING* IT!!

HURRY! WE'VE GOT TO *DO* SOME-THING!!

THIS'LL RUIN OUR WHOLE LANDING PLAN!

IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO HELP THAT *ROBOT,* COLONEL!!

SILENCE!!

PROFESSOR POPO! HAVE OUR ASTRO TAKE ON THE OTHER ONE! MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T LOSE!!

WHERE'S ASTRO?!

GO ASTRO!!

VOOOSH

UH OH... THERE'S THAT *IMPOSTER* AGAIN!

COME ON, LET'S HAVE AT IT! *NO MERCY* THIS TIME!

YOU LOOK A LITTLE LIVELIER THIS TIME, BUT DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD!

I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON *ONCE AN' FOR ALL!*

JUST WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY, YOU IMPOSTER!

VOOOSH

ONE MATCH'LL SETTLE THIS PERMANENTLY!

CRASSH

HEY... DON'T DIE ON ME! I CAN HAVE YOU *REPAIRED!*

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME, ASTRO... *YOU WON* ...

GIVE ME THE HEAVE-HO! I'VE GOT A *BOMB* BUILT INTO ME!

FARE-WELL, ASTRO!

BA BA BOOOM

.....
.....
.....

WHA?! MY ASTRO REPLICA'S BEEN DESTROYED?!!

IT CAN'T BE!! EVERY-THING'S BEEN RUINED!!

YOU FAILED ME, PROFESSOR POPO...

BLAM BLAM

LONG LIVE THE BRONZE REPUB-LIC!

I'LL SHOW YOU YET, ASTRO!

LIFT OFF! IGNITE ROCKET ENGINES!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

VOOOOSH

ROOOAAR

YIKES! THE WHOLE ISLAND'S TAKING OFF!!

ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR

HA HA! HOW ABOUT THAT, ASTRO BOY?! DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE BRONZE REPUBLIC'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY!

I WANT ALL MISSILE LAUNCHERS ON THE ISLAND TRAINED AT ASTRO BOY!

VOOOSH VOOOSH VOOOSH

VOOOSH VOOOSH

YIKES! THERE'RE DOZENS OF THESE THINGS!

SCREE

SCREEE

SCREE

SCREEE

SCREE

VOOOOSH

YIKES!

KABOOOM

KABOOOM

I'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO GANGARA LIKE THIS! IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO AVOID THESE THINGS!

WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW HOW TO GET THEM ...

VOOOOOOSH

VOOOSH

VOOOSH

VOOOSH

VOOOSH

SCREEEE

JUST WAIT!!

ZOOOOM

I'LL HIDE IN A CLOUD AND LAND SECRETLY...

YAY! THERE'S A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE!

WH... WHAT D'YOU WANT?

S'CUSE ME, BUT I NEED TO MAKE A CALL TO JAPAN!

YOU SOME KIND OF JAPANESE ROBOT?!

YEAH... I'M *ASTRO BOY*, FROM *JAPAN!*

REALLY?! I'VE HEARD OF ASTRO BOY!

HELLO? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?

SOME BAD GUYS'RE AFTER ME, 'N I NEED TO USE YOUR PHONE IN A *HURRY!*

GOTCHA!

ASTRO?! WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?!

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER, PROFESSOR. I NEED YOU TO CONNECT ME TO THE HANGAR IN THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP!

THAT'S EASY... BUT ASTRO, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY--

JUST DO IT, PROFESSOR... *PLEASE!* I'M IN A HURRY!

THIS IS **ASTRO BOY**. *CAN EVERYONE HEAR ME? IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR EVERYONE TO GO INTO* **ACTION!**

ASSUME **FIRST ACTION-SHAPE!**

WHOOSH!

VROOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON?! THEY'RE DESTROYING THE ROOF OF THE MINISTRY!

WHOOSH!

WHOOSH!

YEEAAAW!

AIEE!

HEY! I'M BEING *KIDNAPPED!* LEMME *DOWN!*

VOOSH

VOOOSH

FOMP

ROAR

LEMME GO!!

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?! AND WHERE'S ASTRO!?

ASTRO! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!

SORRY, PROFESSOR!

WHAT'D YOU DRAG ME HERE FOR, EH?

LOOK AT THIS BOY, PROFESSOR ...

HE'S REALLY A *LEVER* IN THE ROBOT SPACESHIP'S ENGINE ROOM!

A *WHAT*?!

THE ENEMY REMADE HIM INTO THIS SHAPE, PROFESSOR!

=HMPH.= 'BEATS ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT I GET THE MESSAGE!

YOU WANT ME TO RETURN HIM TO NORMAL, RIGHT?

RIGHT, BUT WE'VE GOTTA *HURRY*!

THE ENEMY'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND, PROFESSOR!

THE *ENEMY*? WHAT ABOUT THE ENEMY?

IT'S AN *ARTIFICIAL ISLAND*!

!

SO THAT'S THE ENEMY?!

HANG IN THERE...

ASTRO...

HI, ARE YOU PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?

I WANT TO RETURN TO MY ORIGINAL FORM... I WANT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH MY FRIENDS...

Y'KNOW... I'M *AWFULLY* GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAW THAT...

I NEED YOUR HELP, PRO-FES-SOR...

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO...

I'LL TRY TO MAKE YOU NORMAL AGAIN...

VOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

UH OH.. THE ARTIFICIAL ISLAND'S ATTACKING US!

VOMP VOMP KABOOM

KABOOM KABOOM

BE CAREFUL, PROFESSOR!

I FINISHED, ASTRO! I *FINISHED!*

WOW! THE ORIGINAL ENGINE *LEVER!*

HURRY! GET TO THE ENGINE ROOM!

GOTCHA!

YAY! ALL THE PARTS ARE WORKING NOW!!

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP

BONG BONG BONG BONG

CLANG

VOOMP

BEEEP VOOOSH

ASSUME *SECOND ACTION SHAPE!*

BEEEP

YOW! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

IT'S A ROBOT SPACESHIP, SO THE WHOLE SHIP'S *ALIVE,* PROFESSOR!

BEEP BEEP

VOOSH

YIKES! IT'S HEADED OUR WAY!!

WE'RE ON A *COL-LISION COURSE!*

IT'S LIKE A *WILD HORSE!*

EEEK!

VROOOM

WHEEE

IT'S ACTING LIKE IT'S *ALIVE!*

HURRY! FIRE OUR *MISSILES* AT IT!

VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

VOOOSH VOOOSH VOOOSH

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

MY GOD! THEY WERE ALL MELTED BEFORE THEY COULD EXPLODE!

THE SHIP'S USING TERRIBLE *RAY CANNONS!*

ZAAAP

SWOOOSH

SHWIPPP SHWIPPP

ROAR

ROAR

FORWARD GUNS HAVE ALL *MELTED,* COLONEL! ONLY THE ONES ON THE SIDES REMAIN!

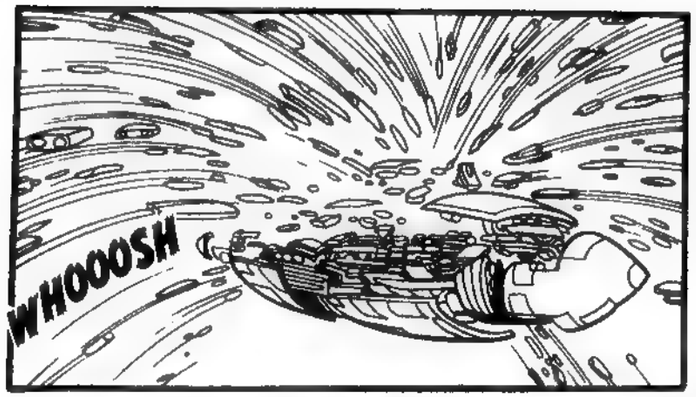
BLAST IT!

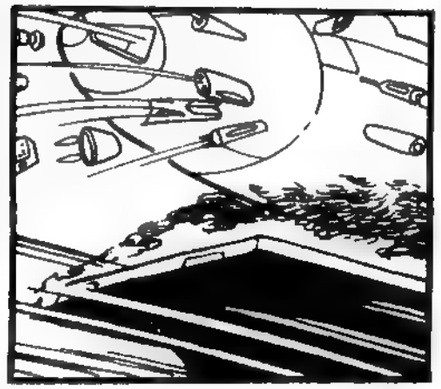
WE'LL HAVE TO *RAM* THE SHIP AND *DESTROY* IT!

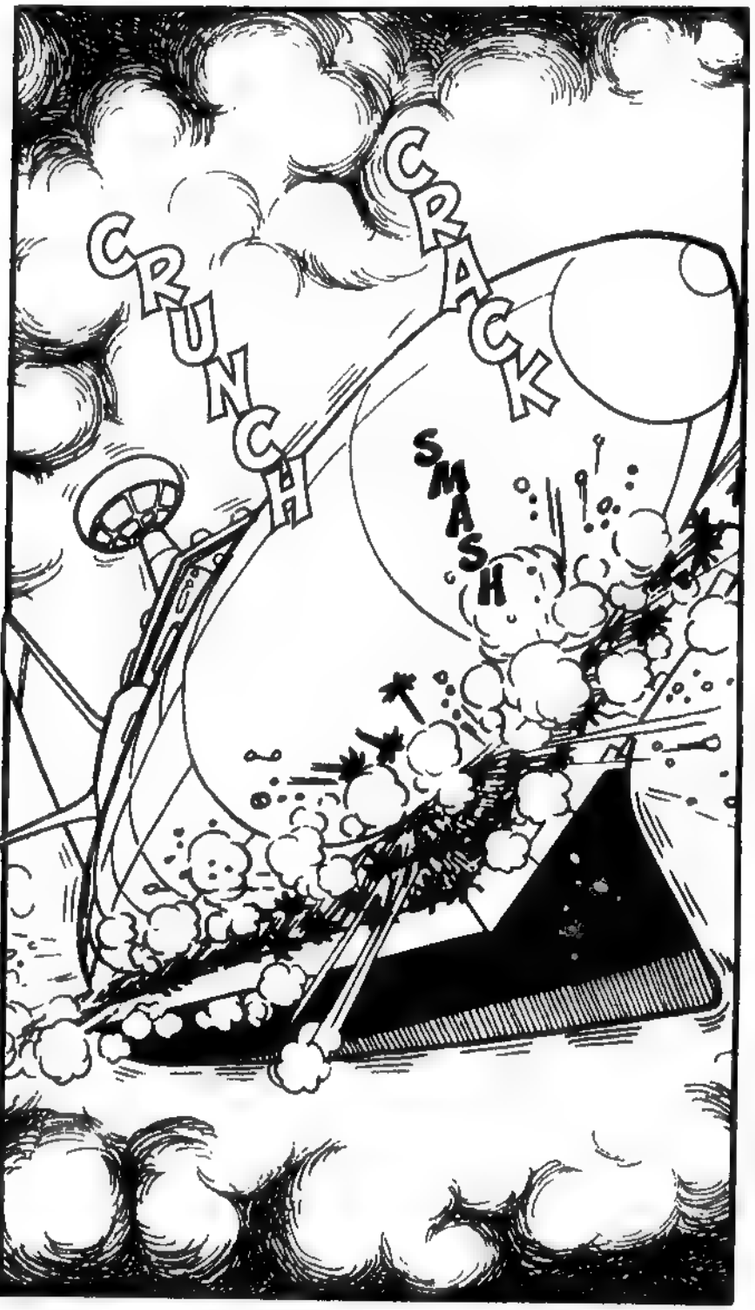
I'LL TEACH THEM A *LES-SON!*

VOOOOSH

NO! THE SPACE SHIP AVOIDED US BY *DIS-ASSEMBLING!*


WHOOOSH

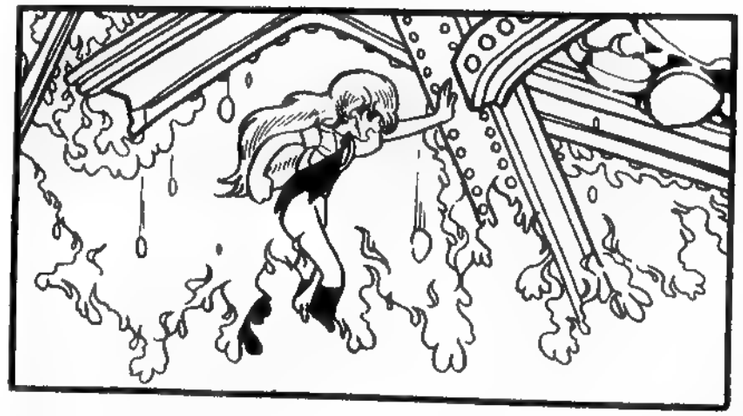



CRUNCH
CRACK
SMASH

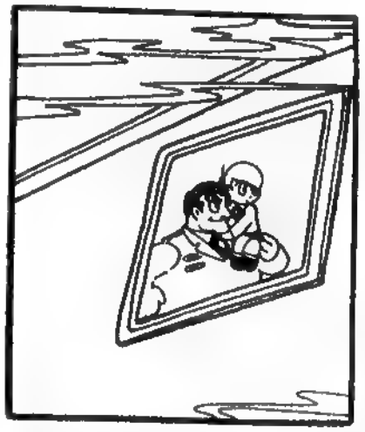

CRASH
ROAR


ANYONE THERE? WHAT'S OUR LEVEL OF DAMAGE?


THE WHOLE ISLAND'S ON FIRE, COLONEL! WE'RE DONE FOR!





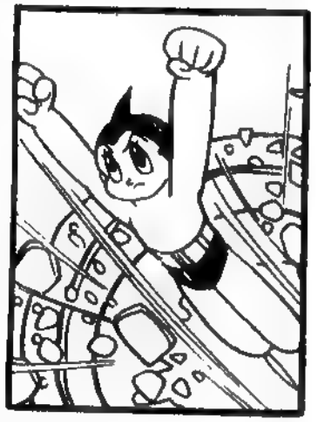



PLEASE... PLEASE FORGIVE ME, DEAR...

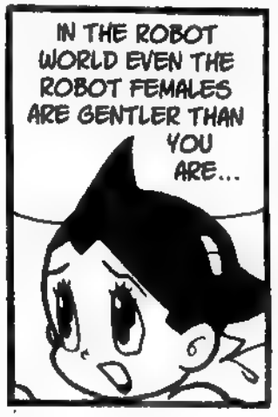

I'VE LOST! IT'S OVER!


WAIT! THAT'S ASTRO BOY!


FWIP

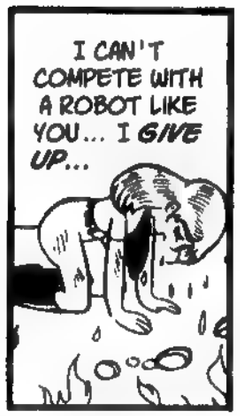



IT'S NO USE RESISTING, COLONEL!
AND WHY ARE YOU SO WARLIKE, ANY-WAY?


IN THE ROBOT WORLD EVEN THE ROBOT FEMALES ARE GENTLER THAN YOU ARE...



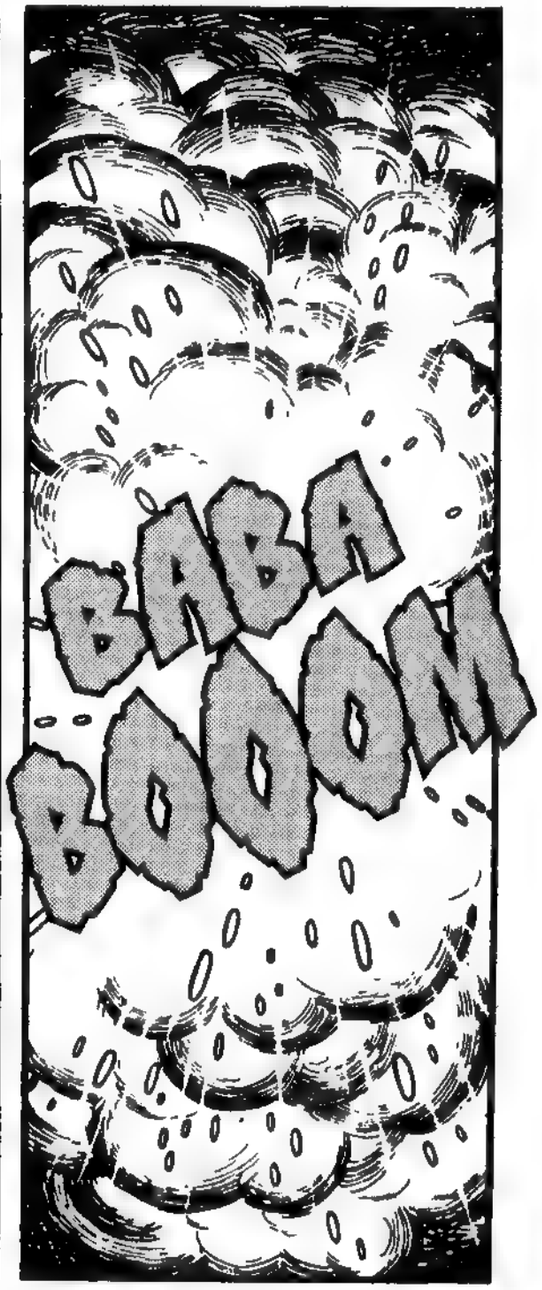

I'VE TRIED SO HARD TO ACT TOUGH, LIKE A MAN... UNTIL NOW... BUT YOU'VE *BEATEN* ME, ASTRO BOY...

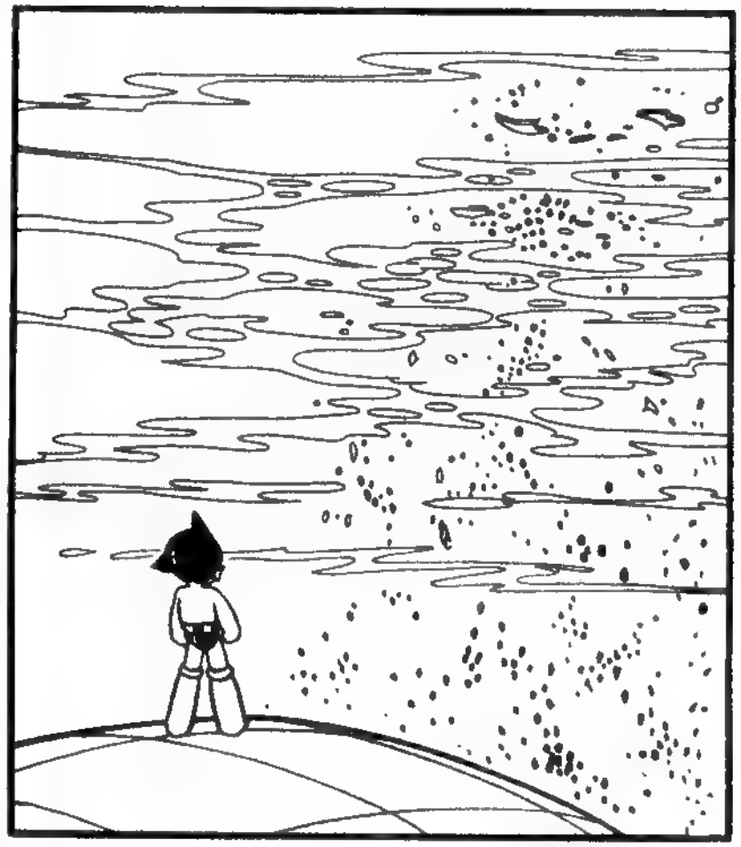

I CAN'T COMPETE WITH A ROBOT LIKE YOU... I *GIVE UP*...


BUT LET ME ALONE FOR A SECOND TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS... THEN I'LL REALLY SHOW YOU I'VE LOST...




ROAR

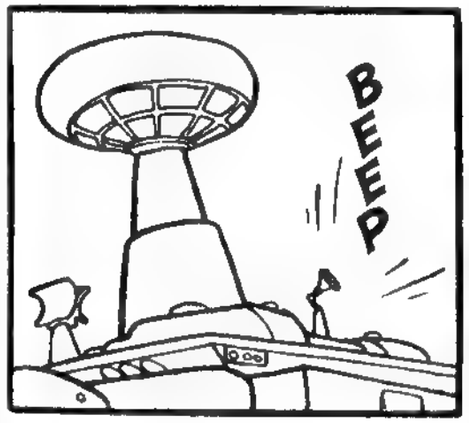

BABA BOOOM

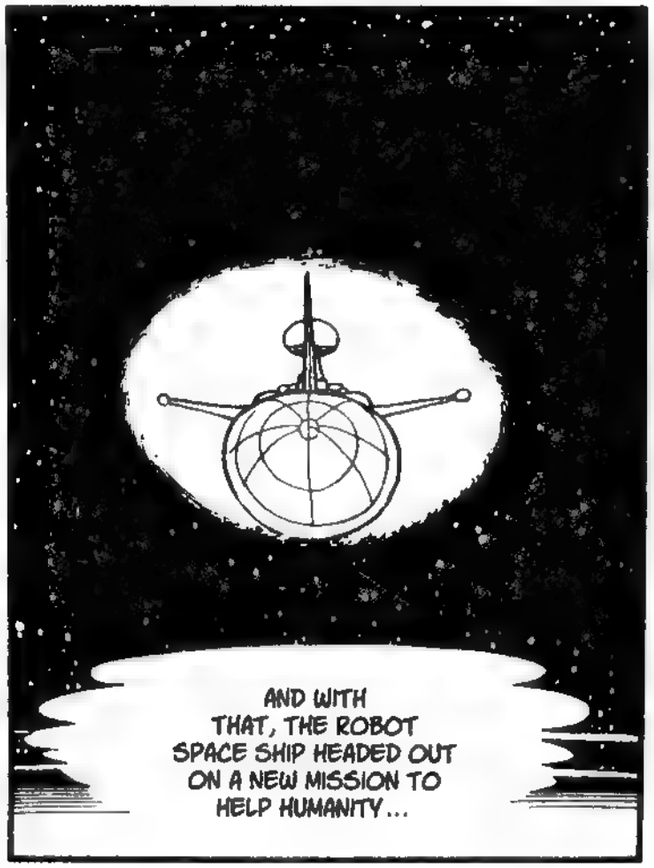



WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF THE MAN-MADE ISLAND...


.....
.....


DISSOLVE SECOND ACTION SHAPE! WE'RE RETURNING TO *JAPAN!*


BEEP


AND WITH THAT, THE ROBOT SPACE SHIP HEADED OUT ON A NEW MISSION TO HELP HUMANITY...



COUNT BAT

First serialized from September 1958 to January 1959 in *Shonen* magazine.

THE FIRST TIME I SHOWED THE *ASTRO BOY* ANIMATION TO SOME AMERICANS, A BANKER IN THE AUDIENCE SAID THAT...

...IT WAS SO ***SCARY*** AND ***VIOLENT***, HE'D NEVER LET HIS CHILDREN WATCH THE SHOW!

REALLY? WHAT'S SO VIOLENT ABOUT ASTRO?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO. SO I ASKED THE MAN IF HE'D LET HIS KIDS WATCH *POPEYE*...

IT'S INCREDIBLY VIOLENT, AFTER ALL...

HE SAID THAT IN AMERICA, *POPEYE* IS REGARDED AS A REAL B-GRADE SERIES, AND THAT CONSCIENTIOUS PARENTS DON'T LET THEIR CHILDREN WATCH IT...

GOSH, IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT VIOLENT TO ME...

WHACK

OF COURSE, VIOLENT SCENES'VE BEEN POPULAR IN JAPANESE ART FOR A LONG TIME...

"BEFORE WORLD WAR II, MANGA OFTEN SHOWED HEADS BEING WHACKED OFF..."

"AND WHEN PEOPLE WERE HACKED IN TWO, THEY LOOKED LIKE SLICED SAUSAGES..."

"SOMETIMES MANGA EVEN SHOWED GAPING HOLES IN CHARACTERS' TORSOS..."

"BUT AFTER THE WAR, ALL VIOLENCE WAS BANNED FROM MANGA FOR AWHILE... IN STORIES ABOUT SAMURAI, YOU WEREN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO SHOW PEOPLE DRAWING THEIR ***SWORDS!***"

REALLY?! BUT SAMURAI STORIES WITHOUT SWORDFIGHTS ARE LIKE *COFFEE* WITHOUT *CREAM!!*

RIGHT. BUT ALL TALES OF DUELS AND REVENGE WERE BANNED, TOO...

"AS TIME WENT BY, THOUGH, MORE AN' MORE MANGA ***WESTERNS***, AS WELL AS ***WAR MANGA***, APPEARED..."

"AND THEY HAD MORE AN' MORE SCENES OF PEOPLE BEING KILLED..."

"STILL, ARTISTS WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DRAW ANY *BLOOD...*"

"AND THE *PTA*S AND SCHOOL TEACHERS ALWAYS MADE A BIG DEAL ABOUT HOW MANY TIMES SWORDS OR PISTOLS WERE DRAWN ON EACH PAGE..."

BOYCOT M

BANNED

"THEY SAID MANGA WERE *BAD* BECAUSE THEY TAUGHT CHILDREN *BAD THINGS...*"

"WHEN I PARTICIPATED IN PANEL DISCUSSIONS IN THOSE DAYS, I OFTEN FELT LIKE I WAS BEING TRIED IN A KANGAROO COURT..."

"IT TOOK WHAT WERE CALLED *GEKIGA*, OR 'DRAMA-PICTURE' MANGA, TO REALLY SHAKE THINGS UP..."

"*GEKIGA* DELIBERATELY INCLUDED LOTS OF GROTESQUE AND VIOLENT SCENES, OF BLOOD FLYING AND PEOPLE BEING MURDERED..."

"SOME PEOPLE CALLED *GEKIGA* A 'NEW MANGA REVOLUTION,' AND HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THEM..."

BUT AROUND THE SAME TIME...

... MORE AND MORE PEOPLE OVERSEAS ALSO BEGAN TO DEVELOP A NEGATIVE IMPRESSION OF JAPANESE MANGA...

"IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS SOME AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS TODAY THINK JAPANESE MANGA ARE TOO *VIOLENT* AND TOO *GRISLY...*"

"IT'S ALSO ONE OF THE REASONS JAPANESE MANGA STILL AREN'T VERY WELL KNOWN OVERSEAS ...*

"... AND IT'S A REASON JAPANESE *ANIME* SHOWS HAVEN'T BEEN SELLING WELL OVERSEAS, TOO..."*

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO *SCARY* COMICS...

"... WELL, THEY'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY POPULAR OVERSEAS, SO THERE IS HOPE FOR JAPANESE HORROR MANGA..."

DON'T FORGET, THE MOVIE *THE EXORCIST* WAS A BIG HIT OVERSEAS!!

AND COMICS ABOUT *DRACULA*, AND *VAMPIRES* ARE ESPECIALLY POPULAR THERE!

D-DRA... CU...LA?!

RIGHT. THERE ARE LOTS OF LEGENDS IN EUROPE ABOUT VAMPIRES...

ESPECIALLY IN AN AREA OF EASTERN EUROPE CALLED *TRANSYLVANIA!*

*NOTE: OSAMU TEZUKA WROTE THIS INTRODUCTION LONG BEFORE MANGA AND ANIME GAINED THE WIDESPREAD POPULARITY THEY HOLD TODAY.

"IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, THERE'S A CASTLE CALLED BRAN, WHERE A *COUNT DRACULA* IS SAID TO HAVE ACTUALLY LIVED!"

WOW... AN' DID HE REALLY SUCK PEOPLE'S *BLOOD* P!

AN' DID HE REALLY TURN TO ASH IF THE MORNING SUN SHONE ON HIM?

"WELL, THAT PART'S PROBABLY MADE UP..."

"BUT SOME SCIENTISTS CLAIM THAT THERE ARE REAL VAMPIRES AMONG US, EVEN *TODAY* ..."

REAL VAMPIRES!

WHAP

YIKES!

'JES A *MOSQUITO*, THAT'S ALL! *HEH HEH...*

DON'T LET ANYTHING ATTACK YOU, BOYS...

WELL, I'VE GOTTA GET GOING...

DR. TEZUKA *WOULD* HAVE TO LEAVE, AFTER *SCARING THE DAYLIGHTS* OUT OF US...

UM... WHO'S GO GONNA GET WATER FROM THE SPRING...?

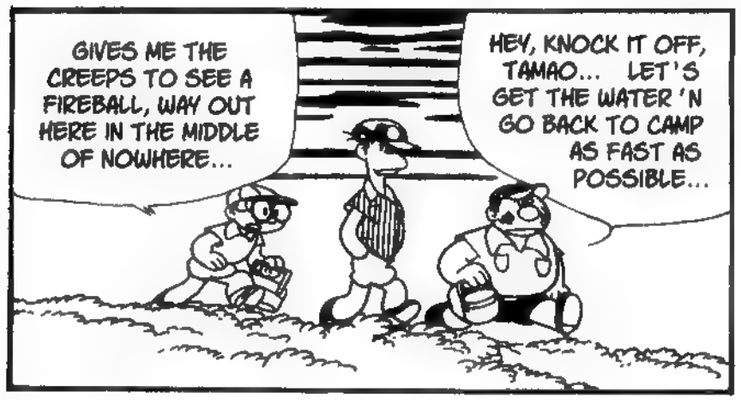
NOT *ME*...

WE'LL JUST ALL HAVE TO GO TOGETHER...

ALL 'CUZ OF DR. TEZUKA'S SCARY STORIES!

HEY, WHAT'S *THAT* P!

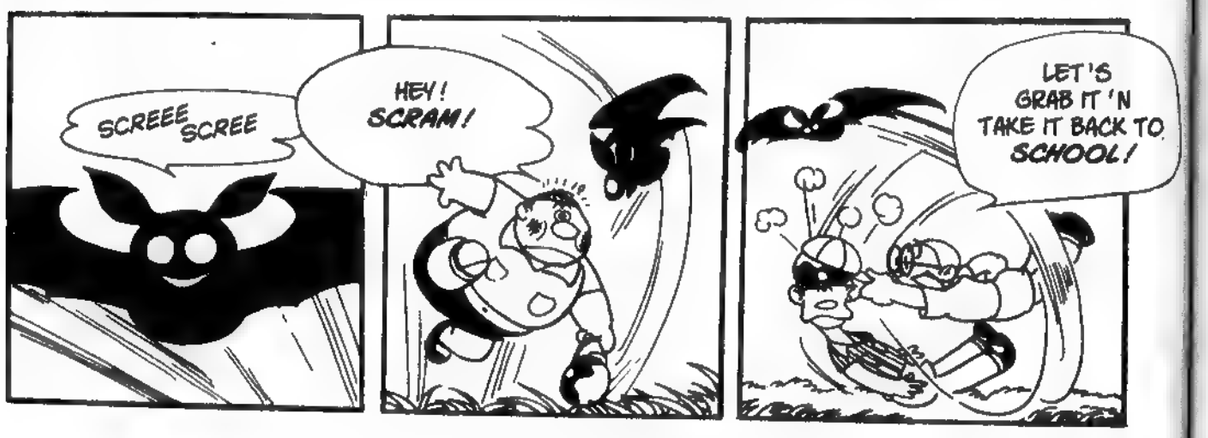

HEY, LOOKIT! A HUGE FIREBALL'S FALLING TO EARTH!


GIVES ME THE CREEPS TO SEE A FIREBALL, WAY OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...
HEY, KNOCK IT OFF, TAMAO... LET'S GET THE WATER 'N GO BACK TO CAMP AS FAST AS POSSIBLE...

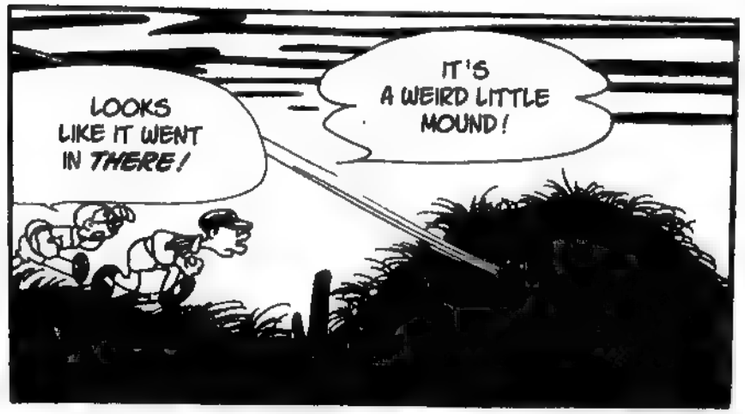

BONK
BAM
WHAT THE--?!


H-HEY... DID YOU SEE THAT? S-SOME-THING BRUSHED BY MY FACE...
YEAH! I SAW IT!


HERE IT COMES AGAIN!
WHOOSH
PHEW... LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY OL' BAT!

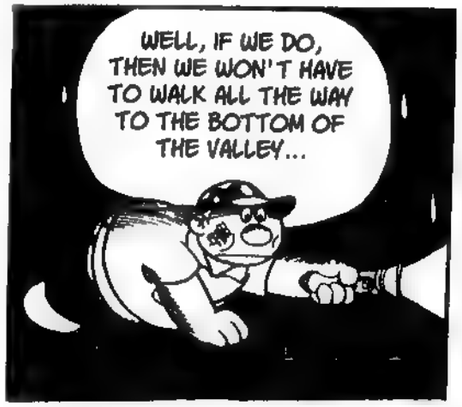

SCREEE SCREE
HEY! SCRAM!
LET'S GRAB IT 'N TAKE IT BACK TO SCHOOL!


IT WENT THAT-AWAY!


LOOKS LIKE IT WENT IN THERE!
IT'S A WEIRD LITTLE MOUND!


IF THE BAT'S IN THERE, LET'S GO HOME!
HEY, GUYS, I HEAR THE SOUND OF WATER INSIDE... MAYBE IT'S A SPRING...


YOU REALLY WANNA GET THE WATER HERE?!


WELL, IF WE DO, THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO WALK ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE VALLEY...


HEY! LOOK!!


BONK
YIKES! THERE'S A COFFIN IN HERE!


IT... IT'S A STONE COFFIN!
COFFIN?

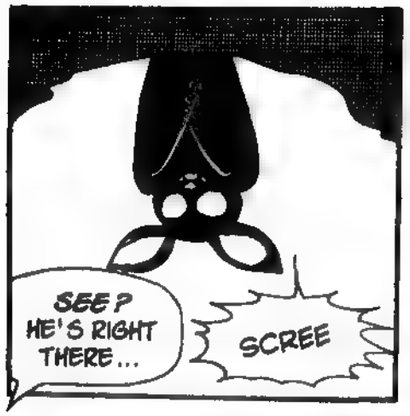

C-COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS A GRAVE MOUND, GUYS!!

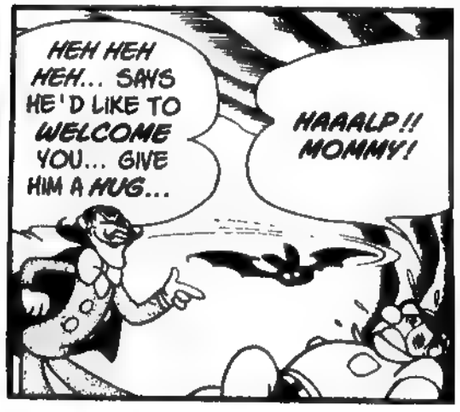
YIKES! IT'S A REAL TOMB!!
HEY, WAIT!! I LEFT THE FLASH-LIGHT INSIDE!
SOME-BODY HELP!
WELL, WHAT'LL WE DO?
GUESS WE CAN'T MAKE IT BACK WITHOUT THE FLASHLIGHT, CAN WE?
SURE WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS...
LOOK! THERE IT IS! AN' I'VE GOT THE WILLIES!
YOU GO GET IT...
HEY, KINOSHITA! C'MERE! SOMETHING'S WEIRD!!
LOOK! I THOUGHT IT WAS A STONE COFFIN, BUT IT'S MADE OF PLASTIC!!
YER RIGHT! IT'S ALL SHINY!
LET'S OPEN IT, HARUTA ...
O-OPEN IT?! ARE YOU NUTS?! WE'LL BE CURSED!
AWW, DON'T BE SUCH A WIMP, HARUTA!
ONE... TWO... THREE!
CREEEEAK

RATTLE RATTLE THUD
WHAT THE--?!
IT'S FILLED WITH BATS!
NO NEED TO RUN AWAY, LADS!
DON'T YA THINK THOSE BATS'RE KINDA CUTE?!
UH... WHO'RE YOU, MISTER?
ME? HMPH! NO NEED TO BE SCARED, BOYS... I'M NO MONSTER ...
RELAX, AND COME OVER HERE...

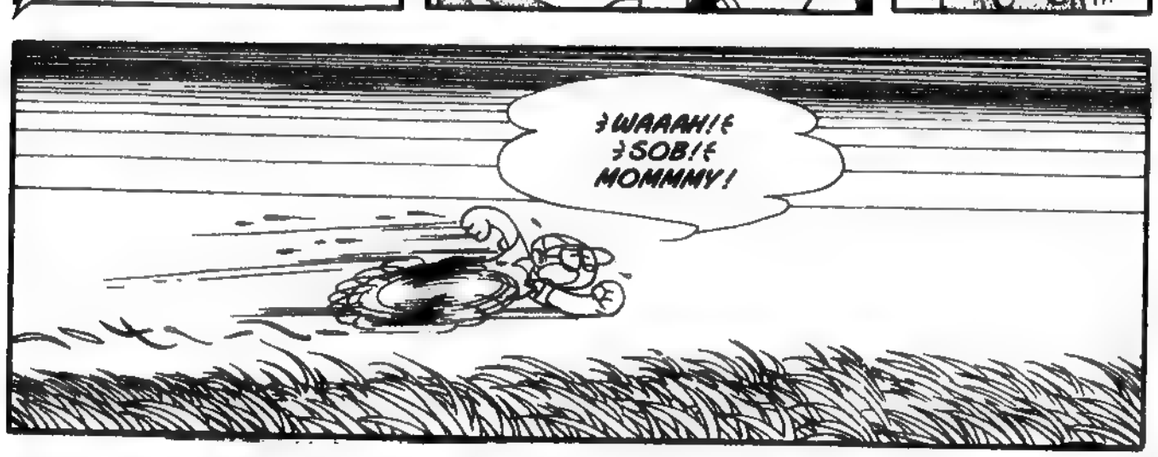

WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO GO?
WHA P! THE EXIT'S BLOCKED!


ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME HERE...
MY BAT TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR ARRIVAL EARLIER...


SEE? HE'S RIGHT THERE...
SCREE


HEH HEH HEH... SAYS HE'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU... GIVE HIM A HUG...
HAAALP!! MOMMY!

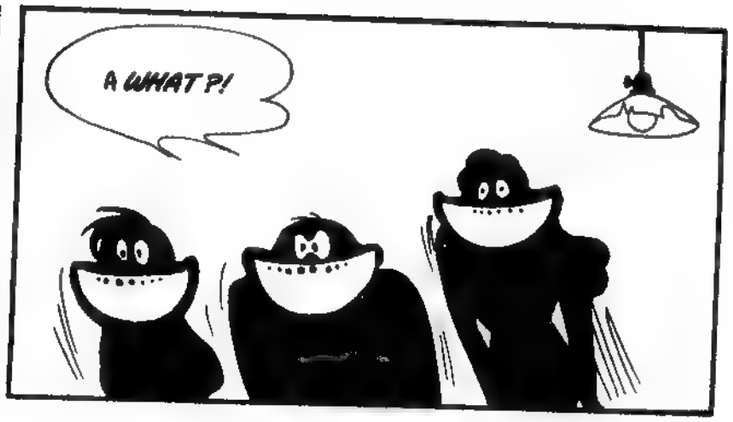

GWA HA HA HA HA HA!

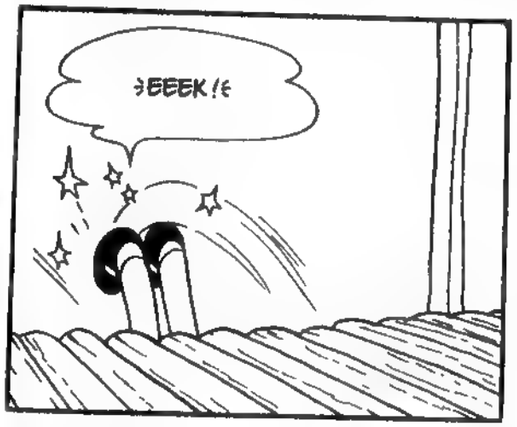

♪WAAAH!♪
♪SOB!♪
MOMMY!

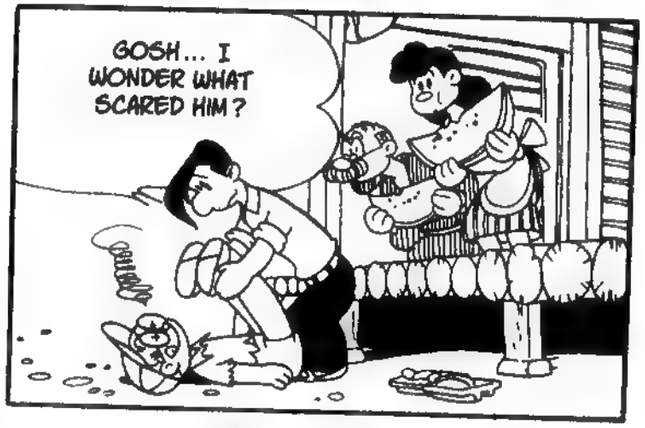



♪HUFF♪
♪PUFF♪
♪PANT♪

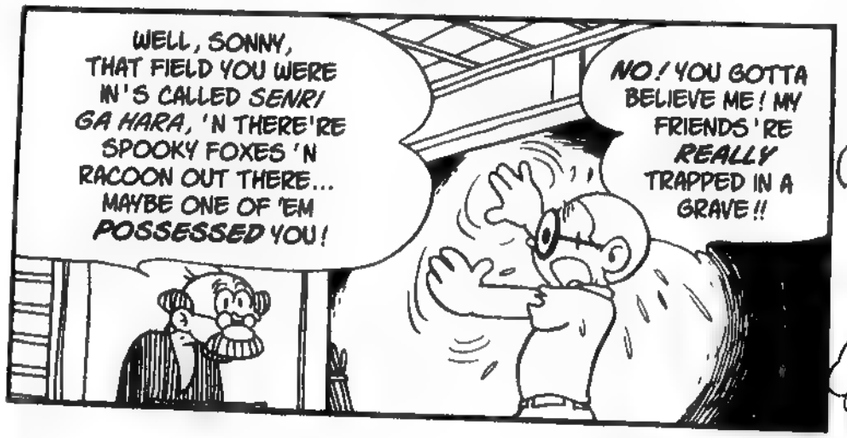

D-DA-DER'S A MONSTER IN A GRAVE!!


A WHAT?!

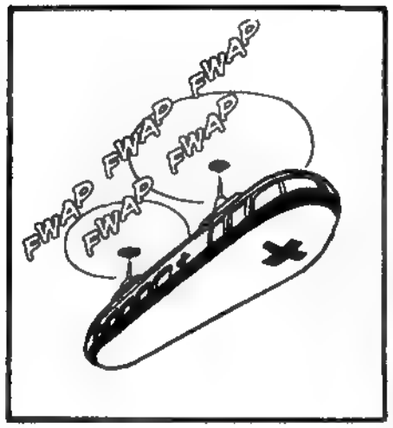

♪EEEK!♪


GOSH... I WONDER WHAT SCARED HIM?


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A MONSTER IN A GRAVE, SONNY?
YEAH, 'N HE TOOK TWO OF MY PALS PRISONER INSIDE THE GRAVE!!


WELL, SONNY, THAT FIELD YOU WERE IN'S CALLED SENRI GA HARA, 'N THERE'RE SPOOKY FOXES 'N RACOON OUT THERE... MAYBE ONE OF 'EM POSSESSED YOU!
NO! YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME! MY FRIENDS 'RE REALLY TRAPPED IN A GRAVE!!

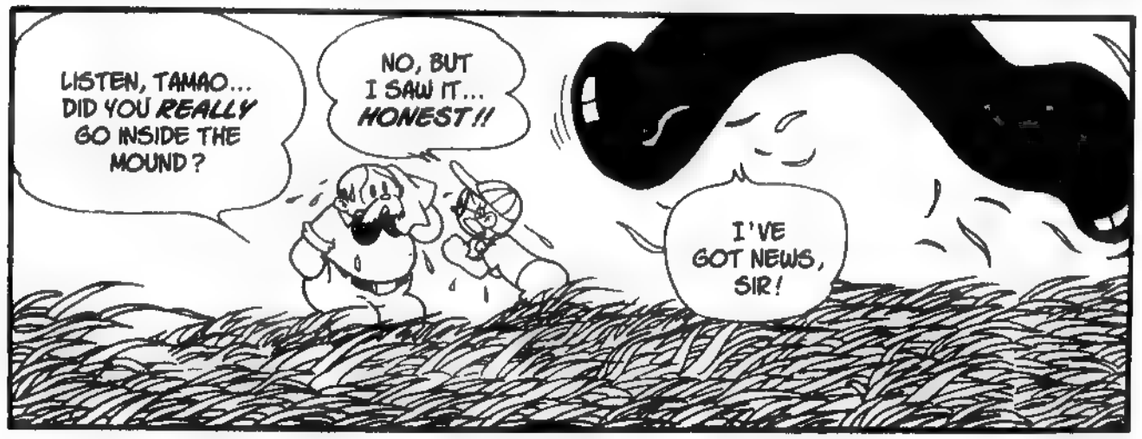

MEANWHILE, IN TOKYO...
GOT IT! BE THERE RIGHT AWAY...


FWAP FWAP FWAP
FWAP FWAP

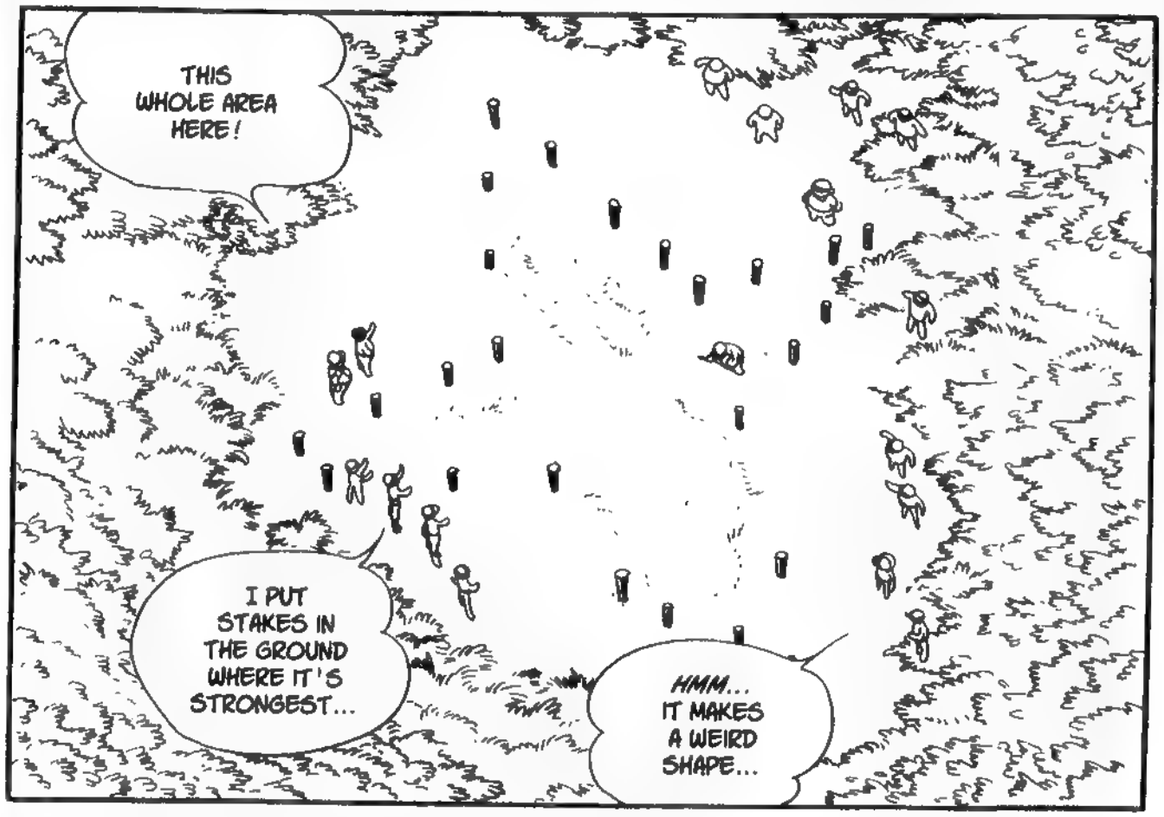

KINOSHITA!
HARUTA!
COME OUT IF YOU HEAR THIS!

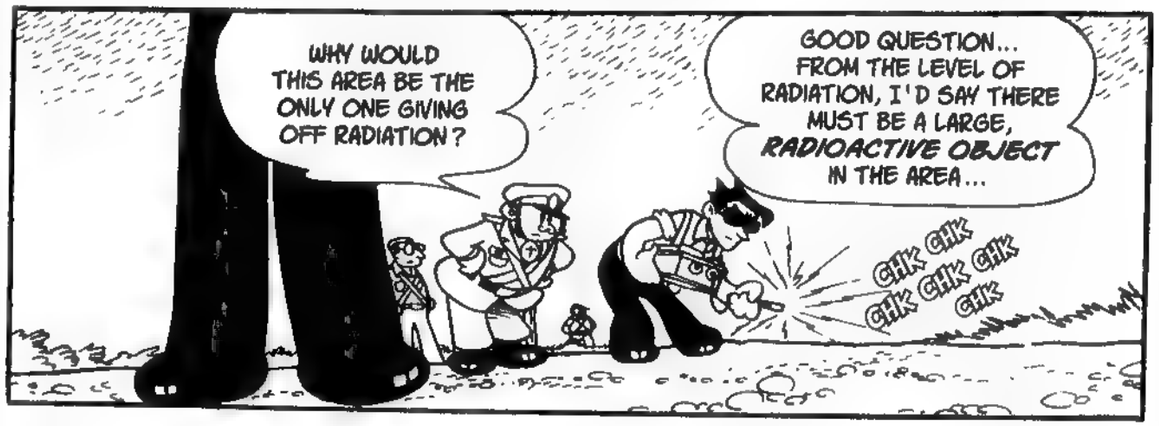

SILENCE...


NO SIGN OF A GRAVE MOUND ANYWHERE, SIR...
FOUND A MOSS-COVERED ALMOND MOUND, SIR...
ACT SERIOUS, YOU IDIOT!


LISTEN, TAMAO... DID YOU REALLY GO INSIDE THE MOUND?
NO, BUT I SAW IT... HONEST!!
I'VE GOT NEWS, SIR!


THIS IS WEIRD... I'M DETECTING STRONG RADIATION FROM THE WHOLE AREA OVER THERE!
WHERE?


THIS WHOLE AREA HERE!
I PUT STAKES IN THE GROUND WHERE IT'S STRONGEST...
HMM... IT MAKES A WEIRD SHAPE...


WHY WOULD THIS AREA BE THE ONLY ONE GIVING OFF RADIATION?
GOOD QUESTION... FROM THE LEVEL OF RADIATION, I'D SAY THERE MUST BE A LARGE, RADIOACTIVE OBJECT IN THE AREA...
CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK

WONDER WHAT THE LARGE OBJECT COULD BE?

RATATAT
RATATAT
RATATAT
RATATAT

AIEEE!
RATATATATATATAT
WE'RE BEING *FIRED* ON!!

RATATAT
RATATA
RATATAT

RATATAT
CRACK

THEY HIT THE *COPTER BLADES!*
RATATATAT

GOSH, THE BAT I SAW LAST NIGHT WAS A LOT *SMALLER...*
YOU MEAN THERE'S *MORE THAN ONE?!*

LOOK! THE FIELD'S ON *FIRE!*

SOME-BODY'S TRYING TO *FRY* US!
WE'D BETTER CALL ASTRO 'N GET HIM TO HELP US!

OW OW OW! *ASTRO!* COME QUICKLY! *HELP!!*
BEEP BEEP BEEP

THEY MUST BE OVER AT SENRI GA HARA!

WOW! THE WHOLE FIELD'S ON FIRE!

THERE THEY ARE!

OVER HERE!!

WHAT THE--?! WHAT'S THIS WEIRD BAT DOING HERE?

RATATAT RATATATA RATATAT

YIKES!

THIS THING'S NO ORDINARY BAT! IT'S A ROBOT!

ASTRO! HAALP!! GET US OUT OF HERE!

ROAR

RUMBLE RUMBLE!

AIEEE! HELP! THE GROUND'S CRUMBLING BENEATH US! HAALP!

ANOTHER MINUTE AND IT WOULD'VE BEEN TOO LATE!

ROARROAR

HEY! LOOK!!

GRAAAR!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

ASTRO!! DO YOU SEE THAT THING? CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?!

IT MUST'VE BEEN BURIED IN THE GROUND! IT'S GOTTA BE A ROBOT!

THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN HERE, ASTRO! GET US AWAY FROM HERE!

GET US OUT OF HERE, ASTRO!

ZOOOM

GRAAA!

UH OH... I'M RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY...

WAIT, THERE'S A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS!!

TOO BAD...

LOOK! SOON AS THE SUN COMES OUT, IT RUNS AWAY!

SO IN OTHER WORDS, LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN...

...THERE ARE FOUR FACTS IN THIS CASE.

FIRST, A STRANGE MAN APPEARED IN FRONT OF THE TWO BOYS IN A GRAVE MOUND.

THIRD, THERE WAS A BAT THAT FIRED MACHINE GUNS...

AND FOURTH, SOME STRANGE PERSON IS CONTROLLING A GIANT FLYING BAT...

SECOND, THE AREA WAS VERY RADIO-ACTIVE...

HERE'S WHAT I THINK... THERE'S *ONE* UNDERLYING FACT BEHIND ALL FOUR OF THESE MYSTERIES.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MYSTERY MAN IN THE GRAVE IS BEHIND EVERYTHING, AND *HE* KIDNAPPED THE BOYS!

BUT WHY WOULD AN ORDINARY KIDNAPPER GO TO SUCH *MONSTROUS* LENGTHS TO CARRY OUT HIS CRIME?!

THAT'S WHAT I DON'T GET...

NONETHELESS, OUR TOP PRIORITY'S GOTTA BE TO FIND THOSE TWO BOYS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HERE I AM IN THE 21ST CENTURY, DEALING WITH A CASE INVOLVING *GIANT BATS!*

THE DAYS OF GHOST 'N MONSTER TALES ARE S'POSED TO BE *OVER!*

PSSST, MISTER...

WHO THE HECK'RE YOU?!

HEH HEH... I NEED A WORD WITH YOU...

...MR. MUSTA-CHIO, SIR...

LISTEN, FOR 5000 YEN...

...I'LL GIVE YA SOME IMPORTANT *INFO!*

THE MONEY DEPENDS ON THE INFO...

I WORK FOR A BIG *CROOK*... 'N LAST NIGHT...

...LAST NIGHT FOUR OF US WERE PLANNED TA ROB THE *DAIKAKU* DEPARTMENT STORE!

I ATTACKED THE GUARDS AN' GOT THEIR KEYS!

LET'S GO FOR IT, THEN!

"TREASURES OF THE INCA EMPIRE" EXHIBIT

TAKE THE *VALUABLE* STUFF AND IGNORE THE REST, GUYS!

HEY, BOSS, YOU THINK THEY EVER HAD DEPARTMENT STORE BANDITS IN THE INCA EMPIRE...?

CUT THE BAD JOKES, PAL...

ONCE THE BAGS ARE LOADED, WE *SCRAM...*

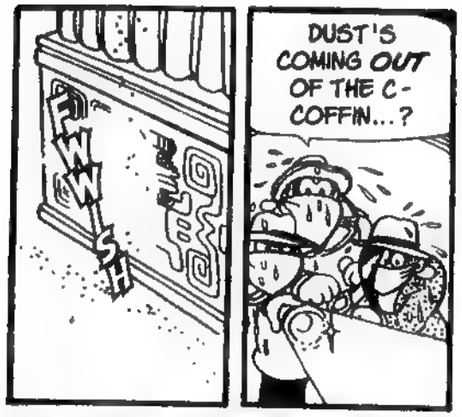
WHAT THE --P!

TH-THAT COFFIN *MOVED!* I *SWEAR!*

YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!

NO MUMMY COFFIN'S GONNA MOVE ON ITS OWN, YOU *IDIOT!*

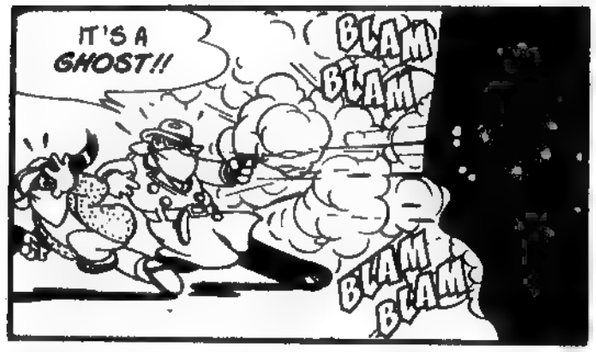
B-BUT LOOK... SOME D-DUST'S FALLING OFF THE COFFIN!!


FWWSH
DUST'S COMING *OUT* OF THE C-COFFIN...?


CREAK
CREAK

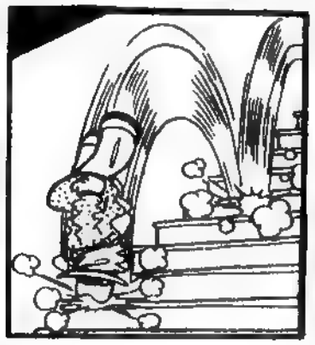

CREAK



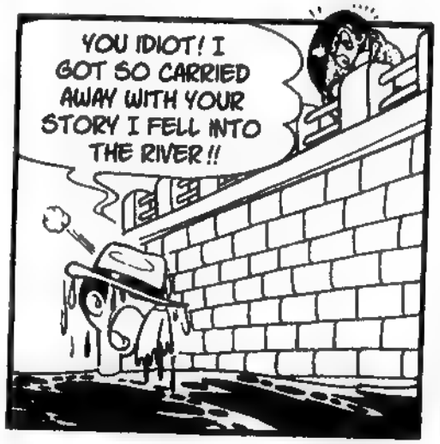

IT'S A *GHOST!!*
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

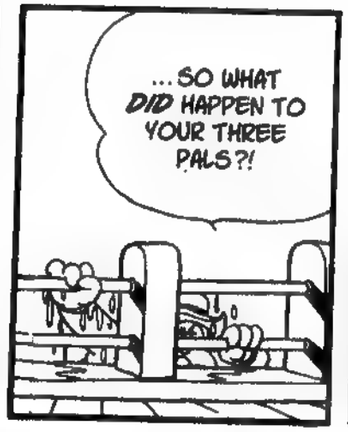

RUN FOR IT!!


ARGH!



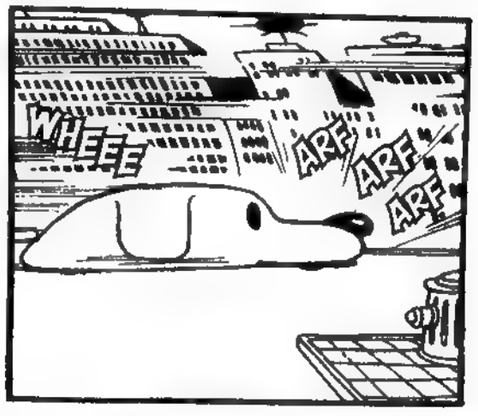


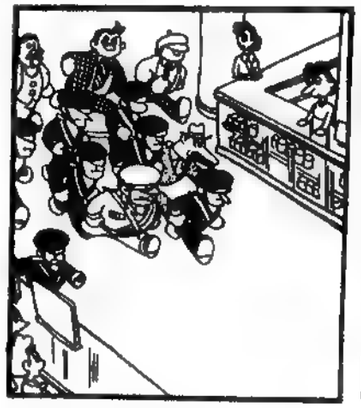

YOU IDIOT! I GOT SO CARRIED AWAY WITH YOUR STORY I FELL INTO THE RIVER!!

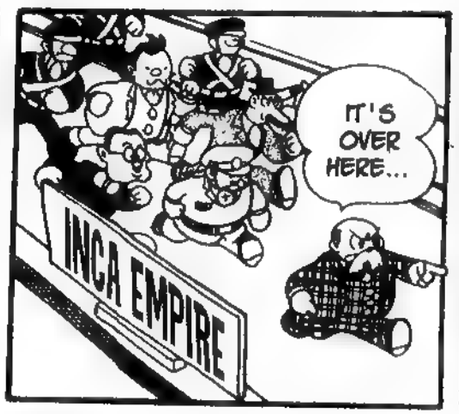

...SO WHAT *DID* HAPPEN TO YOUR THREE PALS?!


I *DUNNO!* I WENT BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE THIS MORNING, PRETENDING LIKE NOTHING'D HAPPENED, BUT THERE WASN'T A *TRACE* OF 'EM!


INPSPECTOR NAKAMURA? MUSTACHIO HERE... RIGHT... I FOUND SOMEONE WHO'S *SEEN* THE MYSTERY MAN...
RIGHT... THE INCA EMPIRE EXHIBIT... MEET ME THERE...
...'N BRING ME SOMETHING TO *WEAR*, TOO!


WHEEE
ARF
ARF
ARF




IT'S OVER HERE...
INCA EMPIRE


LET'S OPEN IT UP...


HMPH!... IT'S *EMPTY*...
WELL, MUSTA-CHIO?!
WELL, I'LL BE... I WONDER IF THAT CROOK WAS FEEDING ME A *WHOPPER*...


?

MR. CUSTODIAN... DO YOU REALLY CLEAN THIS PLACE EVERY MORNING? WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

WE DO THE CLEANING EVERY NIGHT, SIR...

SO THAT MEANS THIS DIRT APPEARED SOMETIME BETWEEN *LAST NIGHT* AND *THIS MORNING*... LOOK AT THIS... IT'S SOME KIND OF *COTTON FRAGMENT*...

MR. NAKAMURA! WE'RE DETECTING SOME RADIOACTIVITY IN THE COFFIN!

DR. FOOLA'S RESIDENCE.

THANKS FOR COMING HERE, BOYS...

HEEE HEEE! I'M AN ESPECIALLY BIG FAN OF YOU, ASTRO...

IN FACT, I'LL BUY YOU FOR ONE BILLION YEN! HOW 'BOUT IT?!

IS *THAT* WHY YOU ASKED ME TO COME HERE?

GOSH... THIS IS *BORING*... I'M GONNA GO *HOME*...

?

WHAT THE---?!!

D-DR. FOOLA!! THAT'S THE SAME *DRACULA* GUY I SAW THE OTHER DAY!!

THAT PAINTING?! *HA HA!*... ACTUALLY, THAT'S *DR. PEDAN*...

PEDAN WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, WHO *DIED* TEN YEARS AGO...

HE'S NO LONGER WITH US, TAMAO...

TAMAO... YOU *SURE* IT'S THE SAME GUY?

"PEDAN INVENTED AN AMAZING THING CALLED AN *ANTI-PROTON BOMB*... AND HE WANTED TO TEST IT SOMEWHERE..."

"'COURSE, THERE WAS NO PLACE TO TEST IT ON EARTH... SO HE DECIDED TO TEST IT ON AN ASTEROID IN OUTER SPACE..."

I THOUGHT IT'D BE AN INTER-ESTING EXPERI-MENT...

...SO I ACTUALLY LOANED HIM *50 BILLION YEN!!*

I FIGURED IF THE TEST WERE A SUCCESS, I'D MAKE A KILLING!

"PEDAN HAD THE BOMB ALL SET UP TO EXPLODE ON THE ASTEROID, BUT THEN SOMETHING *UNFORTUNATE* HAPPENED..."

"JUST AS HE WAS LEAVING THE ASTEROID, HIS SPACE SHIP *STALLED!*"

"THE RESULT? PEDAN WAS BLOWN INTO SPACE ALONG WITH HIS SHIP!!"

"HE WAS AN UNLUCKY FELLOW..."

"WHEN PEDAN'S SPACE SHIP WAS LATER FOUND..."

"... POOR PEDAN WAS DISCOVERED *DEAD* INSIDE..."

"THE RESCUERS PUT HIS BODY IN A PLASTIC COFFIN AND GAVE HIM A SPACE BURIAL..."

PEDAN WAS UNLUCKY, BUT I WAS, TOO! I LOST *50 BILLION YEN!*

BUT ACCORDING TO TAMAO, PEDAN AND THE BAT MAN ARE THE SAME PERSON, DR. FOOLA... YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THE ANSWER'S SORT OF *NO*...

...AND SORT OF *YES*... BUT MAYBE *ABSOLUTELY NO!* PEDAN *CAN'T* BE ALIVE!

IF HE *IS*, I NEED TO SEND HIM A *BILL!!*

BUT HE *IS* DEAD... THERE'S *NO WAY* HE COULD BE ALIVE...

I NEED HIM TO GIVE ME BACK 50 BILLION YEN!

THIS IS TOO SCARY... I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM...

I'M STILL CERTAIN PEDAN AND THE BAT-GUY ARE THE SAME PERSON...

WHAT'LL I DO IF DRACULA COMES AFTER ME AND TRIES TO WRING MY NECK?

!

AAIEEEMMPH!

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?!

THAT WAS *TAMAO!!* BUT HE'S *GONE!!*

THERE'S NO ONE OUT HERE! THAT MEANS THE BAD GUY'S STILL INSIDE!

STILL INSIDE?! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

LET'S DO A SEARCH, DR. FOOLA!

LESSEE... THE BATHROOM WINDOW'S STILL SHUT, 'N SO ARE ALL THE OTHERS...

HE MUST BE IN HERE SOMEWHERE!

THIS IS THE TRASH DOOR... 'COULDN'T BE IN HERE, BUT I'LL CHECK...

♪UGH♪...

SURE STINKS IN HERE...

TAMAO! WHERE ARE YOU?!

GLUB GLUB

♪ARGGGH!♪

WATCH YOUR STEP, DR. FOOLA!!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT?!

LOOK, DR. FOOLA! THERE'S A WEIRD BOX...

A WHAP!

IT'S A STONE BOX!

IT'S A SARCOPHAGUS, ASTRO! A COFFIN!

I'LL OPEN IT... EASY DOES IT...!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

YIKES!

P-PEDAN!!

Y-YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

YOU MUST BE A GHOST! B-BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?!!

HEH HEH... NOT A GHOST, DR. FOOLA...

IT IS INDEED ME, PEDAN, THE ONE AND ONLY ...

"I KNOW YOU THOUGHT I DIED..."

"QUITE BY ACCIDENT, I WAS SAVED BY A PASSING SPACE SHIP..."

"IT BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE..."

"IN OTHER WORDS, I WAS *RESURRECTED!!*"

THE SHIP WAS CONTROLLED BY A SPECIES CALLED *BUZUBUZU*...

THEY'RE ALIENS WITH HIGHLY EVOLVED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND KNOWLEDGE OF ANIMAL CELLS...

IT'S SOMETHING FOR WHICH I AM *ETERNALLY GRATEFUL!*

BUT I TOLD THEM ABOUT *EARTH* AND SAID I WANTED TO GO *HOME*...

THEY KNEW HOW TO REPLACE ALL MY CELLS WITH IDENTICAL ONES AND REVIVE ME...

SO IN OTHER WORDS I WAS GIVEN A *NEW BODY*...

THIS IS INCREDI-BLE, PEDAN...

NONE-THELESS, FOOLA, HERE I *AM!*

LISTEN, MISTER! YOU KIDNAPPED TWO OF MY CLASSMATES, AND YOU'RE HOLDING TAMAO RIGHT NOW! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!

LET TAMAO GO, YOU *CHILD SNATCH-ER!*

LET HIM GO, OR I'LL *MAKE* YOU LET HIM GO!

HMPH!... LISTEN, YOU MEDDLESOME ROBOT, I'LL DO AS I PLEASE WITH THIS KID!

WHA ?!

SPLOONK

I GET IT! THERE'S A *SEWER* UNDER HERE!

WONDER WHERE HE'S HIDING ?!

HELLO? GET ME 911!

Y-YOU SAID WH-*WHAT?!*

ARM YOURSELVES, MEN... WE'RE GOING TO SURROUND THE *SEWER* SYSTEM! CONTACT THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES, TOO!

VROOOOM

CREEAK

CREEEAK

WE'VE SEALED OFF ALL THE MANHOLES IN TOKYO! ANYONE INSIDE'S TRAPPED LIKE A RAT!

CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP

SPLISH SPLISH

ANYONE HOME? NOT HOME?

READY OR NOT?

HERE WE COME...

WOW, THIS PLACE SURE IS *FILTHY*...

SPLISH SPLASH

HM... I SENSE SOMETHING...

THAT'S IT, THERE!

I'D BETTER APPROACH UNDERWATER...

HMPH!... SO THEY'VE SEALED OFF THE SEWER ENTRANCES!

FOOLS THINK THEY CAN TRAP ME IN HERE!

FSSSST

FSST FSSSHHHHT

PHSSSSHHHH SHHHHH FSSSST

FSSHH SHHHH FSSST

GOOD! IT *WORKED!*

VAVOOOOSH VOOOSH

FOOLED YOU, DR. PEDAN!

YOU BLASTED ROBOT!!

TAKE THIS!!!

UNGH!!

DON'T MAKE ME ANGRY, MR. KIDNAPPER!

HOW'S THIS SUIT YOU?

EVIKES!

BLAST IT... HE GOT MY LEGS!

AND NEXT I'LL MELT YOUR FACE!!

VOOSH

NOT SO FAST!!

SLAM

HEY!!

THEY'RE OVER THERE!

LET'S GO!

TWEET

FORWARD, MEN!

THERE THEY ARE!

DON'T KILL 'EM, MEN... WE NEED 'EM ALIVE!!

ASTRO'S THERE, TOO!

TWEET TWEET TWEET

WHAT THE --P!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE, MYSTERY MAN! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

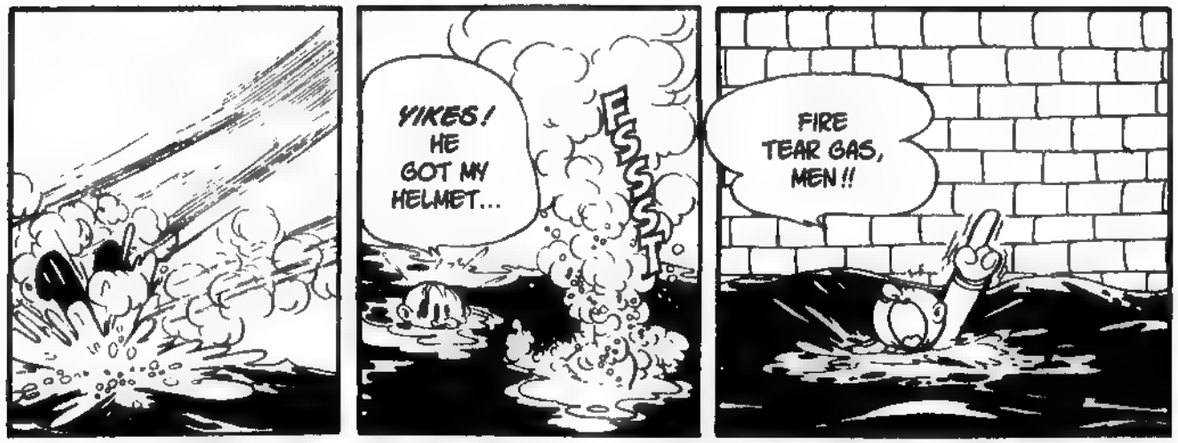
STAY BACK, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA! IT'S DANGEROUS!

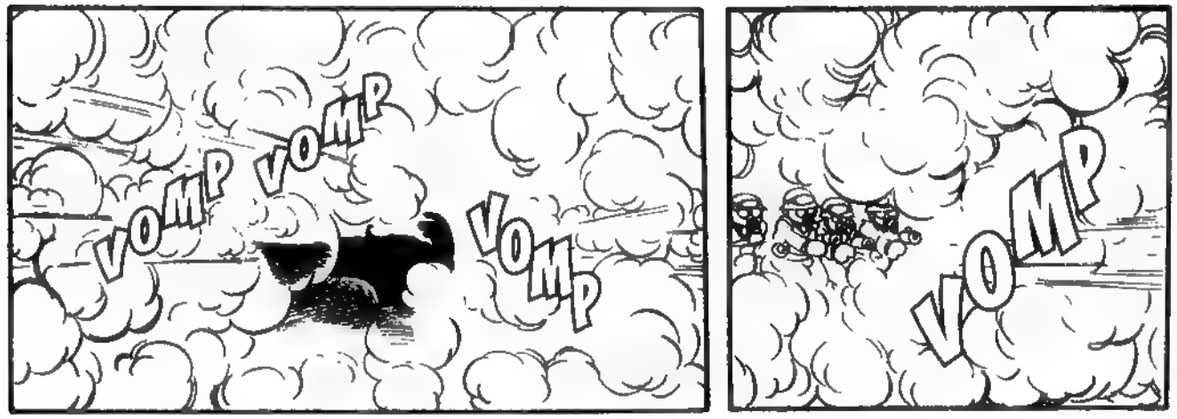
WE'RE POLICE, ASTRO... WE DEAL WITH DANGER!

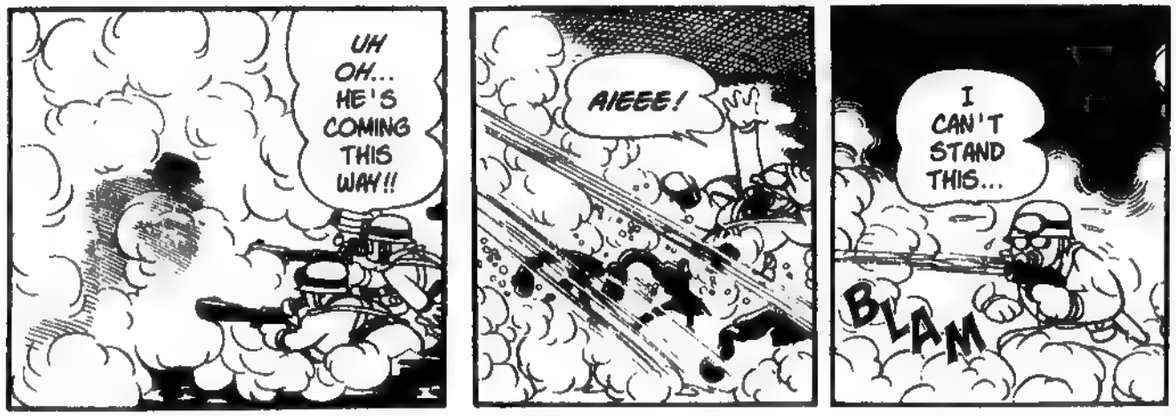
DON'T COME NEAR HIM! HE'LL MELT YOU!!

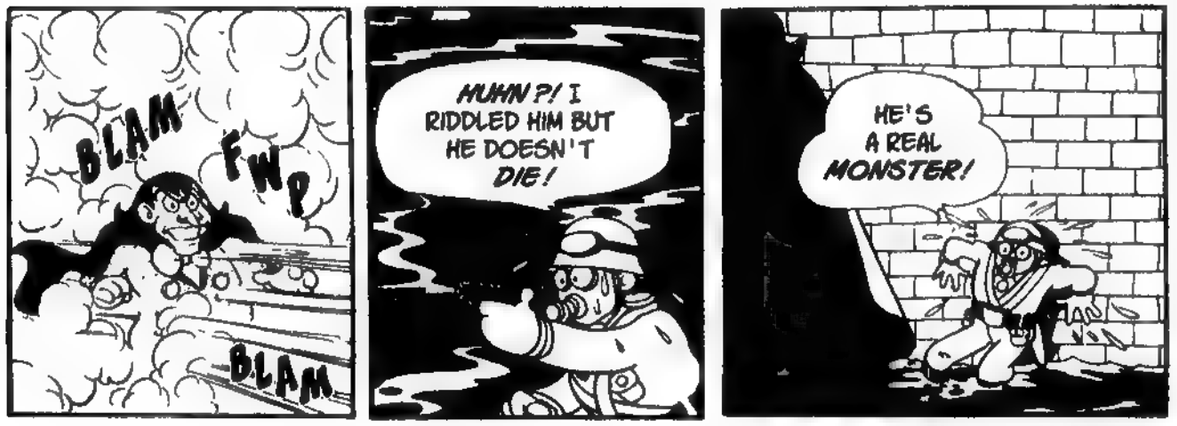
YOU'VE GOTTA STAY BACK!!

VOOOSH


YIKES! HE GOT MY HELMET...
FSSST
FIRE TEAR GAS, MEN!!


VOMP VOMP
VOMP
VOMP


UH OH... HE'S COMING THIS WAY!!
AIEEE!
I CAN'T STAND THIS...
BLAM


BLAM
FWP
BLAM
MUHN?! I RIDDLED HIM BUT HE DOESN'T DIE!
HE'S A REAL MONSTER!

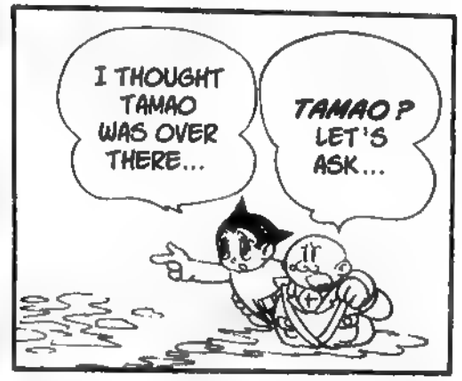

AIEEE!!


WHERE'D THE MONSTER GO?!!
BEATS ME!

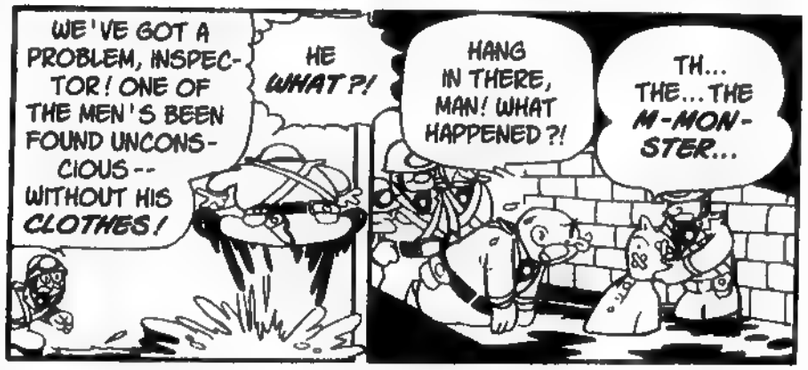

BETTER TAKE THIS KID TO SAFETY...
GOOD IDEA!

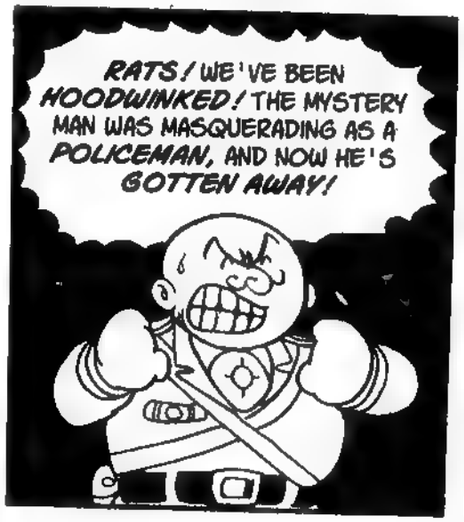

YOU OKAY, ASTRO?
MY LEGS ARE GONE...

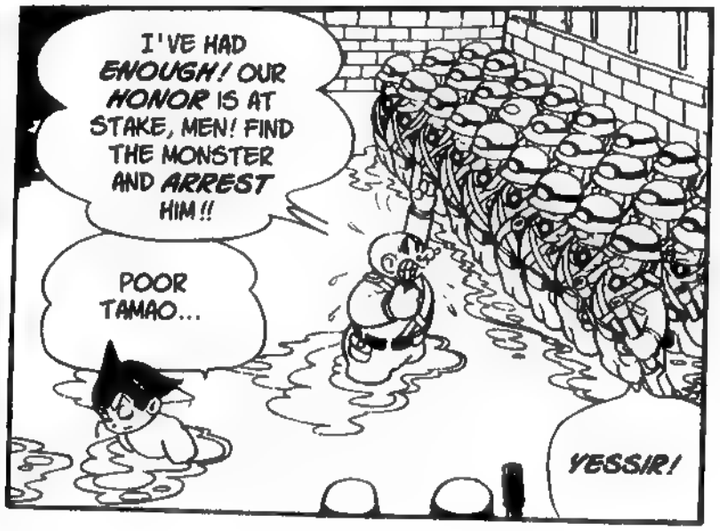

YIKES! YOU'RE NOT KIDDING!
THEY MELTED AWAY!


I THOUGHT TAMAO WAS OVER THERE...
TAMAO? LET'S ASK...


TAMAO? SOME ONE TOOK HIM AWAY JUST A SECOND AGO...
WHAT?! WHO GAVE THE ORDER FOR THAT?!


WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM, INSPECTOR! ONE OF THE MEN'S BEEN FOUND UNCONSCIOUS -- WITHOUT HIS CLOTHES!
HE WHAT?!
HANG IN THERE, MAN! WHAT HAPPENED?!
TH... THE... THE M-MONSTER...


RATS! WE'VE BEEN HOODWINKED! THE MYSTERY MAN WAS MASQUERADING AS A POLICEMAN, AND NOW HE'S GOTTEN AWAY!


I'VE HAD ENOUGH! OUR HONOR IS AT STAKE, MEN! FIND THE MONSTER AND ARREST HIM!!
POOR TAMAO...
YESSIR!

ALAS, DESPITE THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN ITS SEARCH...

WHEEE

WHEEEEE

WHEEEEE

...THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF WHERE THE MYSTERY MAN HAD GONE...

...AND THIS WAS TRUE OF YOUNG TAMAO AND HIS FRIENDS, AS WELL...

HI, DR. FOOLA...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR *LEGS*, ASTRO?

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S MAKING ME SOME NEW ONES RIGHT NOW...

WELL, HERE, I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING...

CHK

WHAT IS IT, DR. FOOLA?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS FOR YOU, NOT BEING ABLE TO *WALK* 'N ALL...

IT SURE IS *SMALL* ...

HERE, TAKE A LOOK!

IT'S A *MINI-ASTRO* DOLL!

AH, BUT NO ORDINARY DOLL, ASTRO...

YOU CAN THINK OF HIM...

AS YOUR *MINI-DOUBLE*...

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'LL MOVE ACCORDING TO YOUR *WISHES!*

REALLY?

IF WE ATTACH THIS SPECIAL COIL TO YOUR ELECTRO-BRAIN...

...HE'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT HIM TO!

LET'S GIVE IT A TRY...

GO AHEAD ...

THINK OF SOMETHING FOR IT TO DO...

STAND UP!

SPONG

WALK!

SEE? IT DOES WHATEVER YOU WANT!

ZIP

NO! NOT THAT!! *PLEASE!*

DON'T USE IT TO PLAY *TRICKS*, ASTRO!

BUT IT IS AWFULLY HANDY FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T WALK, NO?

ALSO, THIS LITTLE GUY DOESN'T HAVE 100,000 HORSEPOWER, BUT HE'S GOT NEARLY 10,000, SO HE'S STILL PRETTY POWERFUL!

DRAWN TOO BIG...

WHOOPS, THIS IS S'POSED TO BE A *SECRET!*

DR. FOOLA! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO COME IN HERE UNANNOUNCED!!

UH, ER... SORRY, PROFES-SOR...

I JUST CAME TO SEE HOW ASTRO'S DOING, THAT'S ALL...

WELL, *SCRAM.* I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET YOUR HANDS ON HIM!

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT, OCHANOMIZU... AND THAT MINI-ASTRO'S NO ORDINARY DOLL... EVENTUALLY, THE TABLES'LL BE TURNED, AN' MY *MINI-ASTRO* WILL CONTROL THE *REAL ONE!!*

ASTRO, DON'T EVER MEET WITH DR. FOOLA AGAIN, UNDERSTAND?

AND DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS CASE... I'LL MAKE YOU SOME REALLY GOOD LEGS SOON...

EVER SINCE THE *MAD MACHINE* INCIDENT, DR. FOOLA'S BEEN *TOO* FOND OF ASTRO... I BET HE'S PLOTTING TO TAKE CONTROL OF HIM SOMEHOW...

I'D NEVER TRUST ASTRO WITH SOME-ONE AS DRIVEN BY GREED AS FOOLA!

SWOOOSH

I HEAR AN ODD NOISE... *WHAT THE--?!*

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, I PRESUME? I HEAR THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO REPAIR ASTRO BOY...

THIS IS THE SAME THING ASTRO MENTIONED! *A BAT-SHAPED ROBOT!*

I DON'T WANT ASTRO BOY REPAIRED!!

I CANNOT LET YOU LIVE! SORRY, BUT YOU MUST DISAPPEAR!

WHAT--P! WHAT'S THAT P!

CREAK

RUN FOR IT, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

TAKE THIS, YOU ROBO BAT!

BZZZZAP ZAAAP ZAAAP

WHA?! ALIENS P!

UH OH... ANOTHER ONE...

PE?!

TAKE THIS!

SPLURSH

APPIRAPO PERAPIRAPO SUPPERABO TAPPERAO SUKANTANPO

A...A... ASTRO PIRAPEYAP

WHAP

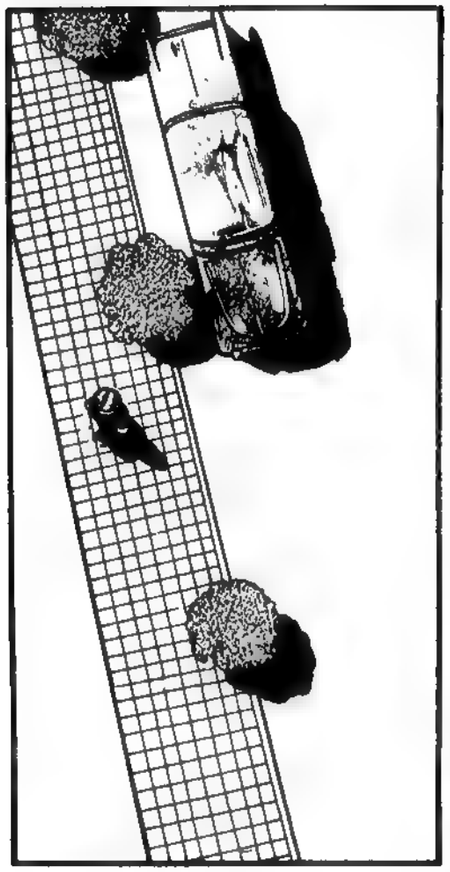
FSSSST FSSSST FSSSST

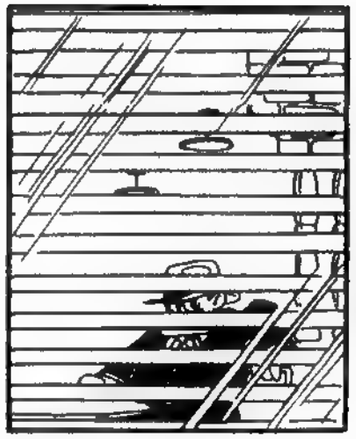
WOW... I MAKE A CRACK IN HIS HELMET... AIR LEAKS IN...

...AND LOOK HOW HUGE HE BECOMES!

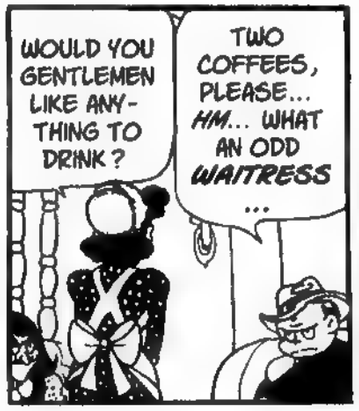
ZOOOM
WONDER IF THERE'S ANY MORE OF 'EM...
THERE'S ONE THERE...
TIP TOE
TIP TOE
WHA?!
ASTRO... BOY...?
SCARED OF ME, AREN'T YOU?! YOU WORK FOR *PEDAN*, DON'T YOU?! YOU HEARD ABOUT ME FROM HIM, RIGHT?!
AN' I BET YOU'RE THE GUYS WHO KIDNAPPED MY PAL, *TAMAO!* SHOW ME WHERE YOU'VE GOT HIM!
U...GU... PERUSUBO
VOOOSH
WOW... IT LEFT JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME! WONDER WHAT THAT LITTLE *ASTRO* THING WAS, THOUGH...

LEAST I'M *SAVED* ...
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
LISTEN, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA... A *BAT ROCKET* JUST FLEW OFF! YOU'VE GOTTA TRACK IT ON RADAR!!
NOT A TRACE...
CAN'T SEE A THING, SIR...
B-BUT THAT'S CRAZY!
WAIT A SEC... MAYBE IT'S A SHIP THAT LETS RADAR PASS RIGHT THROUGH IT! IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT WOULDN'T SHOW UP ON SCREENS...
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT PEDAN'S CONNECTED TO THE BAT ROCKET, GENTLEMEN...
IN RELATION TO THAT, PROFESSOR, DR. FOOLA'S BEEN ACTING *STRANGE* RECENTLY...
HE'S ALWAYS GIVING US THE SLIP, SO MAYBE HE'S BEEN MEETING WITH *PEDAN!*
THERE GOES DR. FOOLA, OUT ON SOME MYSTERIOUS BUSINESS...

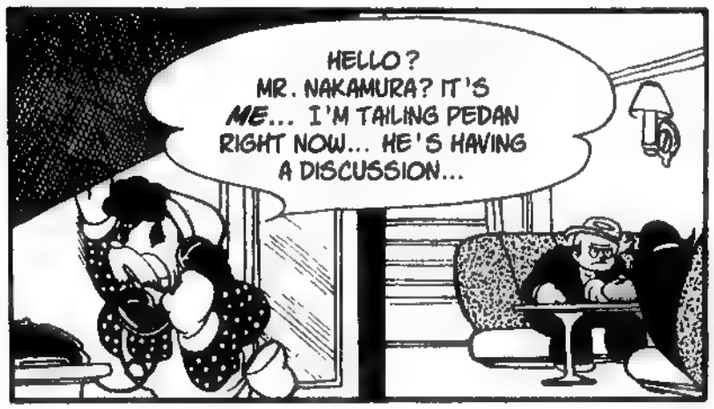


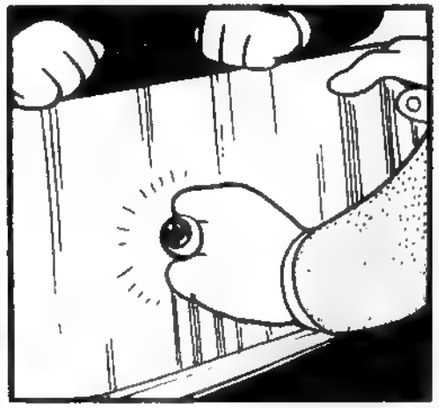



PEDAN?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...


WOULD YOU GENTLEMEN LIKE ANY-THING TO DRINK?
TWO COFFEES, PLEASE... HM... WHAT AN ODD WAITRESS ...


YESSIRS! COMING RIGHT UP!

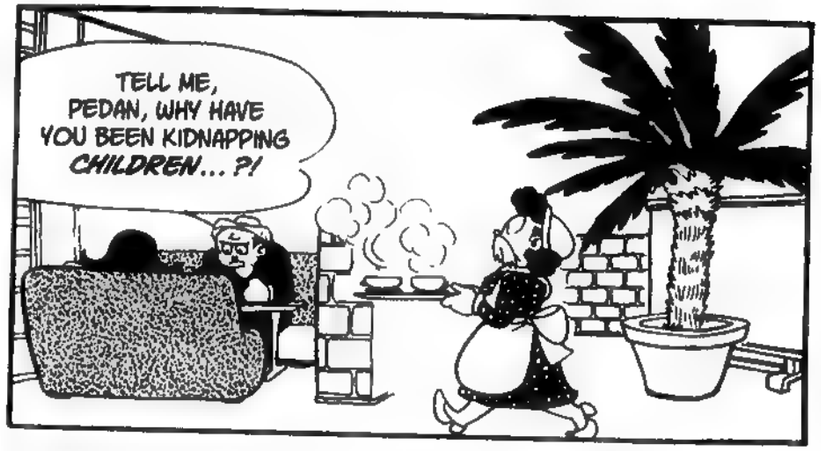

HELLO? MR. NAKAMURA? IT'S ME... I'M TAILING PEDAN RIGHT NOW... HE'S HAVING A DISCUSSION...




LISTEN, MUSTACHIO... WE'LL BE RIGHT AFTER HIM, BUT WE NEED YOU TO GET THAT RING OF HIS, THE ONE THAT MELTS THINGS!


SO... HERE'S 100 MILLION YEN FOR YOU, DR. FOOLA...


IT'S A LITTLE TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR YOUR COOPERATION...


TELL ME, PEDAN, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN KIDNAPPING CHILDREN...?!

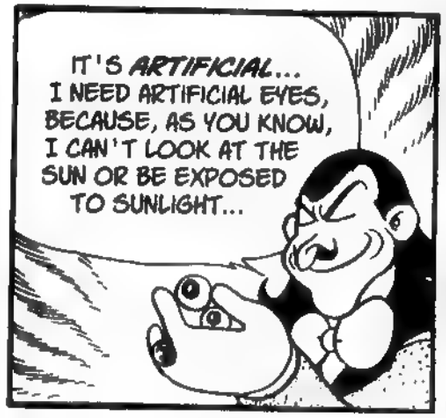

I KNOW YOU NEED TO MAKE MONEY, BUT I CAN'T GO ALONG WITH KIDNAPPING CHILDREN...


THEY'RE ALL A MEANS TO GET MY HANDS ON ASTRO BOY, DR. FOOLA, AND ACTUALLY, I NEED ABOUT TWO MORE KIDS...


WH...WHA?! NO WAY!


WHY NOT?! YOU PROMISED YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR 100 MILLION YEN, DIDN'T YOU?


TAKE A LOOK AT MY EYE, FOOLA...

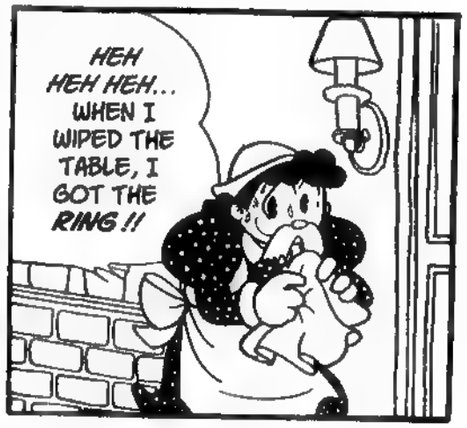

IT'S ARTIFICIAL... I NEED ARTIFICIAL EYES, BECAUSE, AS YOU KNOW, I CAN'T LOOK AT THE SUN OR BE EXPOSED TO SUNLIGHT...


HOLY COW!


SPLASH


BE CAREFUL! WE COULD'VE BEEN BURNED!
ER... SORRY, SIRS!!


JUST LEAVE US ALONE, WILL YOU?!
YES-SIRS!


HEH HEH HEH... WHEN I WIPED THE TABLE, I GOT THE RING!!

YIKES! THIS ISN'T HIS RING! IT'S HIS EYEBALLS!

I'M GONNA USE THE KIDS I KIDNAP TO GET ASTRO FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND THEN GIVE HIM TO THE ALIENS FROM BUZUBUZU!

IN RETURN, I'LL GET THE BUZUBUZU PEOPLE TO HELP ME MAKE ANTI-PROTON BOMBS! IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR YOU, ME, AND THE ALIENS!

EHEM...

UH OH... MY EYES! WHERE ARE MY EYE-BALLS?!

MUST'VE BEEN THAT WAITRESS! I BET SHE STOLE MY EYES!

LOSE SOME-THING, GOOD SIR?

PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU FIND IT...

ALLOW ME TO DO A PSYCHIC READING!

WELL, WELL... HOW 'BOUT THAT! HERE THEY ARE!

SEE? I'M CHINPEI NOZUE, THE FAMOUS FORTUNE TELLER...

ALLOW ME, BY THE WAY, TO ALSO READ YOUR PALM... I'M GIVING FREE READINGS THIS WEEK!

WELL, WELL... YOU DO HAVE FIVE FINGERS... WHAT'S THIS? NO FINGER-PRINTS?!

WATCH OUT, PENDA! I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE SOME-WHERE!

UH OH...

I KNOW! IT'S MUSTACHIO! DISGUISED AS A PALMIST!

HOLD ON A SEC... I'VE GOT A GOOD LINE FOR YOU...

I'VE BEEN POSING AS A PALMIST, A WAITRESS, AND A SCHOOL TEACHER!

BUT I'M REALLY SHUNSAKU BAN, THE FAMOUS PRIVATE EYE! DID I FOOL YA, FOOLA?

WHY, YOU... TAKE THIS!

KATHUNK

TAKE THIS!!

NYAA-DEE NYAAA! YOU *MISSED*, MR. BAT-MAN, DRACULA, KIDNAPPER-GUY!

ONCE MORE!

BE CAREFUL, MEN! HE'S GOT THE *RING* ON HIM!

GO IN, MEN!

UH OH... THE *COPS* ARE HERE! WHERE TO RUN?! HOW TO ESCAPE?

WHERE ARE THEY? WHERE'RE THE POLICE CARS?

OVER THERE, *THERE!!*

TAKE *THIS!*

NOOOSH

DUCK, MEN!

WE'LL SPLIT INTO TWO AND GET HIM WITH A PINCER MOVEMENT!

VOOSH

VOOOSH

HERE'S ONE FOR *YOU!*

WATCH OUT!

WHAT THE --?! HIS *ARM!!*

TRY MY *KODOKAN JUDO AIR TOSS* ON FOR SIZE!

HURRY, FOOLA! WE'VE GOTTA ESCAPE TO THE ROOF!

I... I'M DONE FOR...

NONSENSE, FOOLA! YOU'LL BE FINE! THEY'RE COMING TO PICK US UP...

PICK US UP? WHO IS? THE BUZUBUZU ALIENS?

RIGHT. THE BAT-ROCKET'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE, AND WE CAN MAKE OUR ESCAPE ON IT...

YOU SEE IT YET?

NO... NOTHING...

B-BUT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THERE THEY ARE!

THEY'RE ON THE ROOF!

SHOOT 'EM!!

STOP! DON'T SHOOT! I SURRENDER!

SURRENDER?! WHY, I'LL TOSS YOU OFF THIS ROOF!

YOU TREASONOUS COWARD!

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA! IT'S NO USE SHOOTING PEDAN! I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S NOT HUMAN!

HIS REAL WEAKNESS IS SUNLIGHT! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE SUNRISE!

PEDAN CAN'T STAND THE SUN! IN FACT, IF ANY OF THE ALIENS FROM BUZUBUZU ARE EXPOSED TO SUN, THEIR BODIES'LL DISINTEGRATE!!

REALLY? HOW COME?

BUZUBUZU IS THE OUTERMOST PLANET IN ITS SOLAR SYSTEM, SO ALMOST NO SUNLIGHT EVER REACHES IT... AS A RESULT, THE PEOPLE CAN'T STAND SUNLIGHT!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GO TIL I GET ASTRO BOY!

B-BUT I WANT ASTRO BOY!

I'LL NEVER GIVE HIM TO YOU! HE'S MINE!

AIEEE!

ARGHH!

LOOK AT PEDAN'S BODY! IT'S TURNING INTO *DUST!*

AH, I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS AN *UNDUST-WORTHY* FELLOW!

ACKε... I THINK I'M GONNA *SNEEZE...*

SOB!!ε THE 100 MILLION YEN PEDAN GAVE ME WAS ALL *FAKE!!!*

I DON'T GET ASTRO *OR* 100 MILLION YEN! JUST LIFE IN *JAIL!!*

THIS IS WHERE YOU CONTROL YOUR FLYING SAUCERS, ISN'T IT?

WELL, START WALKING, YOU SCOUNDREL!

I'M GONNA BE WATCHING YOU FROM INSIDE HERE!

WELL? WHAT HAPPENED? WHY'D YOU COME BACK ALONE?

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GO PICK UP PEDAN IN THE BAT-ROCKET, RIGHT?!

YOU KNOW WE CAN'T STAY LONG ON THIS WORLD!

WHA?!

WE HAVE TO LEAVE TOMORROW!

WE MUST HAVE ASTRO BOY BY TOMORROW! TELL PEDAN THAT!

IT WON'T DO FOR US TO HAVE ALL THESE HOSTAGES, BUT NEVER GET ASTRO BOY!!

WE BADLY NEED A ROBOT LIKE ASTRO BOY ON OUR PLANET!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA. WE COULD MODIFY THE HOSTAGES LIKE WE DID PEDAN...

AND THEN WE COULD SEND THEM TO MEET ASTRO BOY AS OUR ALLIES...

BRING THE HOSTAGES HERE!

GOSH! THERE'S *TAMAO!*

START THE PROCESS!

CHANGE THEM INTO BUZUBUZU BODIES!

WAAAH! MOMMY!

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS! NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA MODIFY MY PAL TAMAO!

TAMAO! IT'S *ME,* ASTRO!

ASTRO?! B-BUT I CAN'T SEE YOU!

I'M *HERE!* BE STRONG, TAMAO! I'M PROTECTING YOU!

B-BUT HOW COME YOU'RE SO *TINY,* ASTRO?!

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN THAT NOW...

THAT BUG-LIKE CREATURE'S INTERFERING!! GET HIM!

BZZZZZZZ

UH OH...

NO! I'M BEING *SUCKED IN!*

VOOOOSH

ASTRO!!

WHA?!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ASTRO?!

YOU BEEN HAVING A NIGHTMARE?

PROFES-SOR, TAMAO'S IN BIG TROUBLE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ASTRO!?

TAMAO'S INSIDE THE BUZUBUZU PEOPLE'S SPACE SHIP, 'N HE'S BEING MODIFIED TO BE LIKE THEM, PROFES-SOR! WE'VE GOTTA HURRY OR IT'LL BE *TOO LATE!*

B...BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS, ASTRO?

IT...IT'S 'CUZ I'VE GOT A *DOUBLE,* MR. MUS-TACHIO!

HE'S A LITTLE DOLL THIS SIZE, AND HE DOES WHATEVER I WILL HIM TO...

?

?

SO *THAT'S* WHAT SAVED ME FROM THE BAT-ROCKET?

YEAH, BUT NOW YOU'VE GOT TO HELP TAMAO!

BUT WE CAN'T SEND UP OUR OWN ROCKETS RIGHT AWAY...

HE'S RIGHT ASTRO... IT TAKES AT LEAST A DAY TO PRE-PARE...

THEN PUT SOME LEGS ON ME, PROFESSOR! *I'LL* GO!

YOU HEAR THAT? I WANT HIS LEGS, *NOW!*

IT'LL TAKE ONE MORE DAY, PROFES-SOR...

BUT WE'VE GOT A *DEAD-LINE!!*

I WANT THEM IN TEN MINUTES!

T-T-*TEN MIN-UTES?!* BUT THAT'S *IMPOS-SIBLE!*

PEOPLES' LIVES ARE AT STAKE!!

THE LEGS ARE READY, PROFES-SOR!

NO TIME TO TEST 'EM! *HURRY!*

ZOOOM

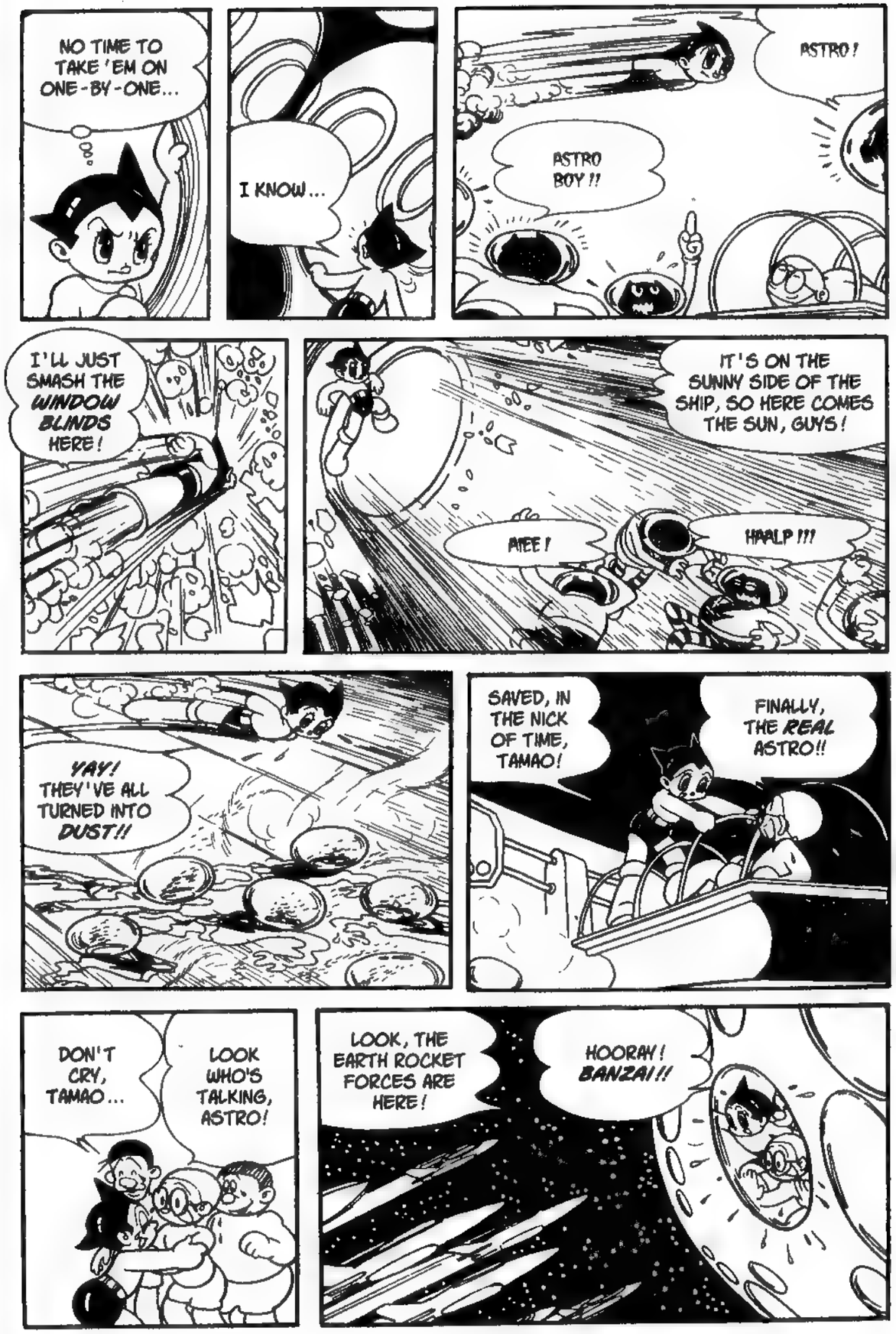
KA-VONK

SO THIS IS THE BUZUBUZU COMMAND CENTER! WONDER WHERE TAMAO 'N THE OTHERS ARE?!

WHAT THE--?!

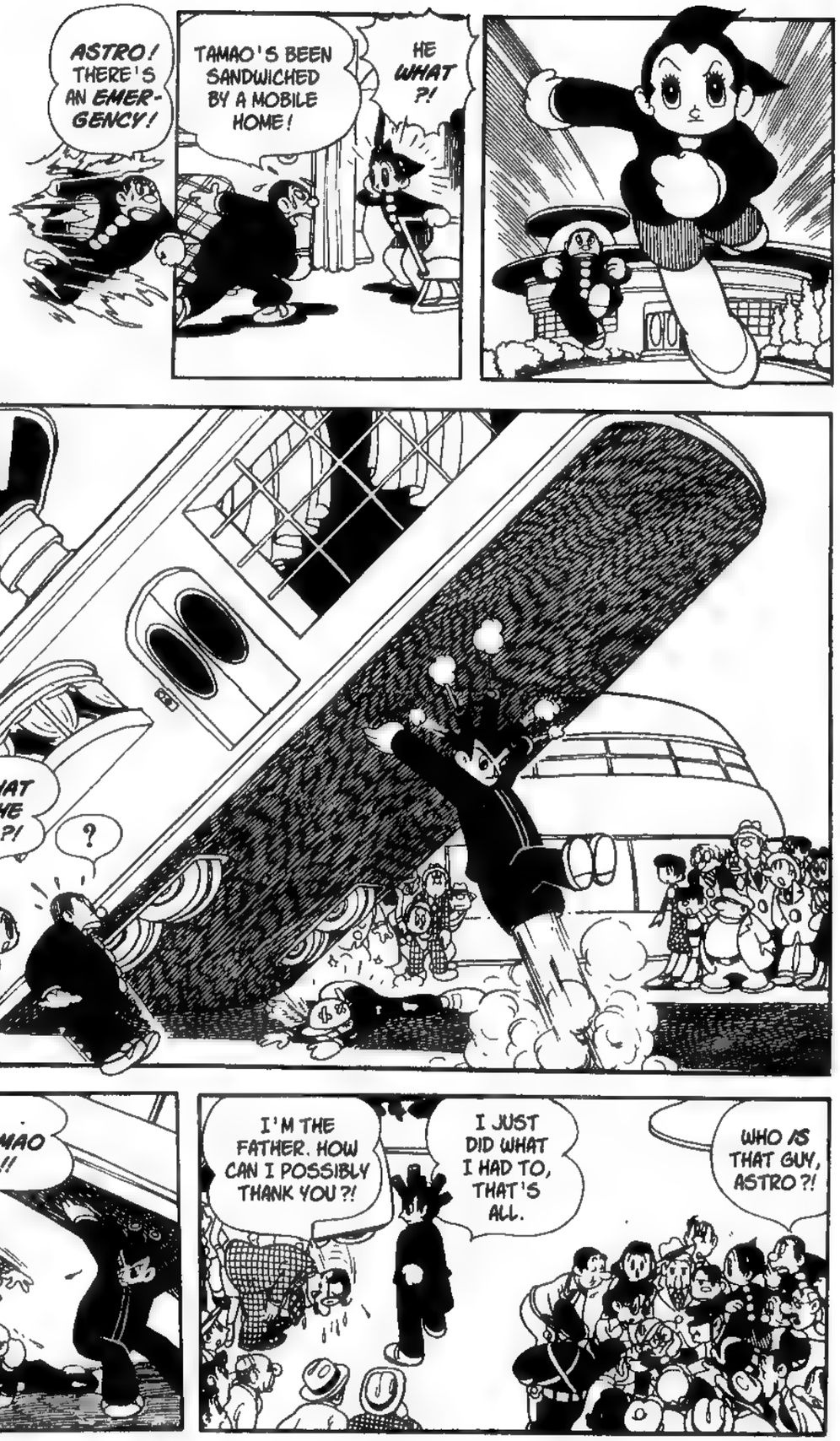
IT'S MY LITTLE *DOUBLE! SMASHED!!*

UH OH... MAYBE I'M TOO LATE!


NO TIME TO TAKE 'EM ON ONE-BY-ONE...
I KNOW...
ASTRO!
ASTRO BOY!!
I'LL JUST SMASH THE WINDOW BLINDS HERE!
IT'S ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE SHIP, SO HERE COMES THE SUN, GUYS!
AIEE!
HAALP!!!
YAY! THEY'VE ALL TURNED INTO DUST!!
SAVED, IN THE NICK OF TIME, TAMAO!
FINALLY, THE REAL ASTRO!!
DON'T CRY, TAMAO...
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, ASTRO!
LOOK, THE EARTH ROCKET FORCES ARE HERE!
HOORAY! BANZAI!!

ATLAS

First serialized from March to July 1956 in *Shonen* magazine.


ASTRO! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!
TAMAO'S BEEN SANDWICHED BY A MOBILE HOME!
HE WHAT?!
WHAT THE --?!
?
MY BABY! TAMAO !!
I'M THE FATHER. HOW CAN I POSSIBLY THANK YOU?!
I JUST DID WHAT I HAD TO, THAT'S ALL.
WHO IS THAT GUY, ASTRO?!


HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
AT LEAST TELL ME YOUR NAME...
I'M ATLAS ...
GOSH, ASTRO... I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE THAT STRONG...
HE IS AWFULLY POWERFUL...
ATLAS!! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?!
YOUR BODY'S NOT FINISHED ENOUGH TO GO OUTSIDE!
HE LOOKS FINISHED DR. RAM...
AH, BUT NOT IN ONE AREA ...
...AND THAT'S HIS OMEGA FACTOR!! HEH HEH...
DEAREST MOTHER ...

THE TIME FOR ME TO *AVENGE YOUR DEATH* IS APPROACHING...

I'LL NEVER, EVER FORGET THAT DAY...

...WHEN YOU WERE BEATEN LIKE A MERE ANIMAL...

I LATER MANAGED TO GET HOLD OF AN 8MM FILM SOME WHITE MAN HAD SHOT...

OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, I'VE WATCHED THE FILM AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND SWORN THAT I'D GET *REVENGE!*

REVENGE! THAT'S RIGHT! I'LL GET REVENGE ON THE WHITES WHO INVADED OUR INCA TERRITORY, AND THE WHITES AND YELLOW PEOPLE WHO MADE THE INDIANS SERVE THEM LIKE SLAVES!

AND I'LL GET REVENGE BY USING *ROBOTS*, WHO ARE THEMSELVES BEING USED LIKE SLAVES *TODAY!*

REVENGE!!!

DR. RAM WAS A NATIVE OF LATIN AMERICA, AND HE HAD WAITED A LIFETIME TO GET REVENGE. NOW, WITH THE CURTAIN ABOUT TO RISE AT THE LOCAL *ROBOTTING COMPETITION*, HIS CHANCE HAD FINALLY COME!

PREVIEW FOR ROBOTING FESTIVAL

REPRE-SENTING *INDIA*... IT'S *GWANJI SMN*, WITH 15.2 MILLION DYNES!

AND REPRESENTING *TURKEY*, IT'S *KING GANG*, WITH 11.1 MILLION DYNES!

...REPRESENTING *HAWAII*, IT'S *UKULELO*, WITH 8.2 DYNES!

...FROM *AMERICA*, IT'S *MECHA PEN CIL!*

ASTRO OUGHTA BE HERE ...

NAW, HE'D NEVER PARTIC-IPATE IN THIS...

I DON'T WASTE MY ENERGY ON STUFF THAT STUPID, YOU GUYS!

BESIDES, TEACHER WON'T LET ME...

YOU ROBOTS WERE CREATED TO *HELP HUMANS!*

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN APPROACHED BY THE ROBOTTING FEST PEOPLE, BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO WASTE YOUR ENERGY ON SOMETHING SO *SILLY*. *UNDERSTAND?!*

ROBOTTING

BABOOOM

THE ROBOT-TING FESTIVAL FINALLY BEGAN...

C'MON ASTRO! NO HARM IN JUST WATCHING!

YEAH, LET'S GO, ASTRO! TODAY'S MATCH IS S'POSED TA BE REALLY GOOD!

YAY YAY YAY

YAY YAY YAY

YAY YAY YAY

>MUNCH<
>MUNCH!<

YAY YAY YAY

LADIES 'N GENTS, BOYZ 'N GIRLZ! MAKING A SPECIAL APPEARANCE TODAY IS **ATLAS**, THE BRILLIANT CREATION OF THE SCIENTIST, DR. RAM!

ATLAS ?!

YAY YAY

YAY...

IT'S **ATLAS**, AT 15 MILLION DYNES, VERSUS **KING GANGU**, AT 11.1 MILLION DYNES!

THE TWO ATHLETES AGREE TO FIGHT TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY, FAIRLY, AND SQUARELY!!

VOOOSH

SNOOSH

KA BOOM

GUGAAAH!

GOH!

AND THE WINNER IS... **ATLAS** !!

LADIES 'N GENTLEMEN, KING GANGU IS ***NOT MOVING!*** THAT'S RIGHT, HE APPEARS TO BE ***BROKEN!*** THE ENGINEERS ARE ON THEIR WAY...

V.T

NEXT UP IS **OX OIL**, *NICKNAMED "THE ATOMIC OX," WITH 5.7 MILLION DYNES OF POWER!*

KING GANGU MAY HAVE LOST, ATLAS, BUT I WON'T!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

TAKE THIS!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

BAKA!!

ATLAS HAS THUS FAR DEMOLISHED ALL *FIVE* OPPONENTS!

HEY! LET THE OTHERS WIN ONCE IN A WHILE!
ATLAS IS A MEANY!!
HE'S GOT NO FEELINGS!
KNOCK IT OFF, ATLAS!

HEH HEH... LOOKS LIKE NO ONE WANTS TO TAKE ON ATLAS!! NO VOLUNTEEERS ANYWHERE?

GACHI
HOLD IT JUST A SEC... HIS TUBES'RE A LITTLE FLAKEY RIGHT NOW... DON'T HURT HIM!

HEY! CUT IT OUT!

EEEK!

DR. RAM! TAKE YOUR ROBOT AND LEAVE THIS SITE! YOUR ROBOT'S *TOO VIOLENT!!*
WHAT? AND WHO'RE *YOU* TO ORDER ME AROUND!?

UNGH!!

UH OH... ATLAS HIT A *HUMAN* !!
ASTRO, YOU'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

STOP!!

YOU'VE GOTTA STOP HIM! HE'S GONE *TOO FAR!*
HM. THIS COULD BE INTERESTING! MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE HIM ON!

OKAY, ATLAS! *GO!* TEAR HIS HEAD OFF!!

RUMBLE
KRRAAK

UH OH! IT'S AN *EARTH-QUAKE!!*
IT'S A *BIG ONE,* GUYS!

HEY, GUYS... *ASTRO'S* UP! I'VE GOTTA WATCH THIS!
ARE YOU NUTS, SHIB?
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!!

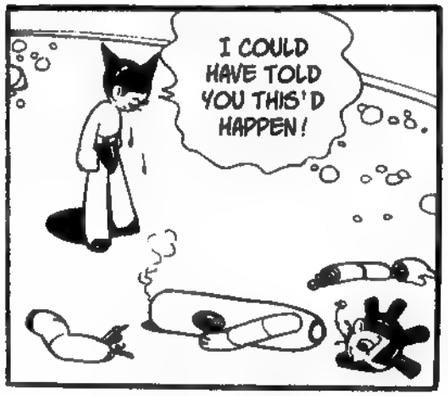
IT'S AN EARTH-QUAKE! *STOP* THEM!
HOW? WHY DON'T *YOU* TRY, BOSS?!

ZAP ZAP ZAP

YOOSH!

KA BAM

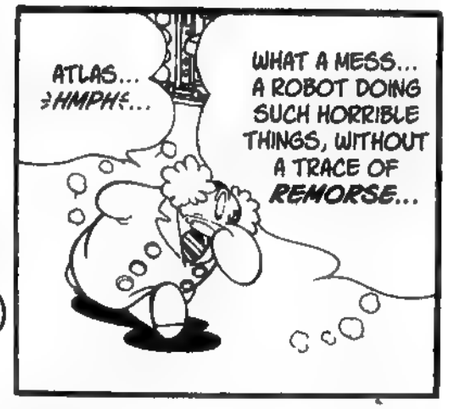

F W P

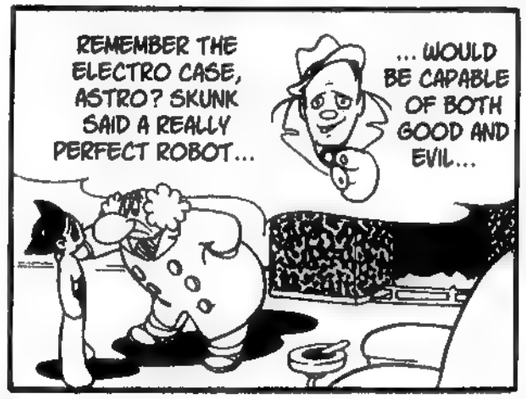

I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THIS'D HAPPEN!


ASTRO!! YOU SMASHED ATLAS!!
I'LL GET REVENGE FOR THIS!!

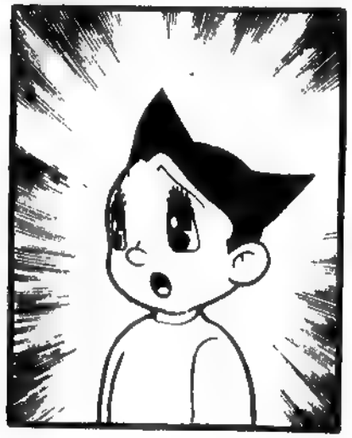

DON'T BE STUPID!

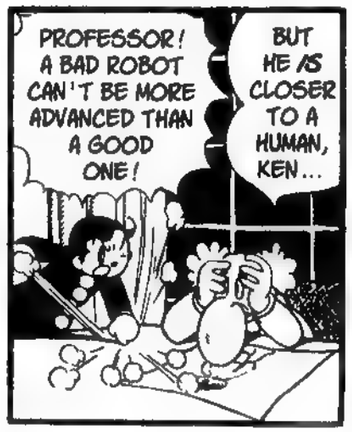

DON'T BE ANGRY AT ASTRO, PROFESSOR... IF HE HADN'T FOUGHT ATLAS THEN, ATLAS WOULD'VE GONE CRAZY!

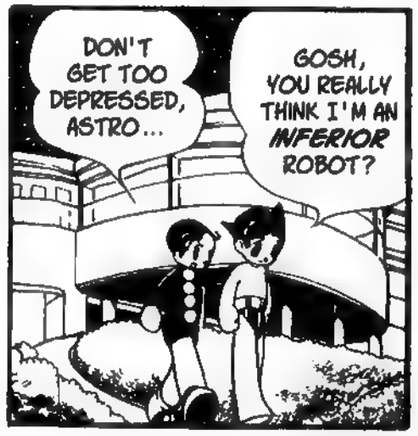

ATLAS... HMPH!...
WHAT A MESS... A ROBOT DOING SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS, WITHOUT A TRACE OF REMORSE...


REMEMBER THE ELECTRO CASE, ASTRO? SKUNK SAID A REALLY PERFECT ROBOT...
... WOULD BE CAPABLE OF BOTH GOOD AND EVIL...


DR. RAM'S APPARENTLY PERFECTED SOME DEVICE THAT GIVES ROBOTS EVIL THOUGHTS...
... AND IN THAT SENSE, ATLAS IS MORE ADVANCED THAN ROBOTS!

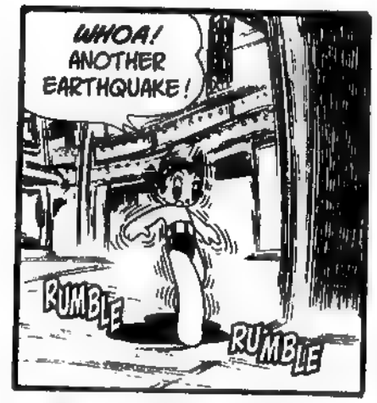



PROFESSOR! A BAD ROBOT CAN'T BE MORE ADVANCED THAN A GOOD ONE!
BUT HE IS CLOSER TO A HUMAN, KEN...

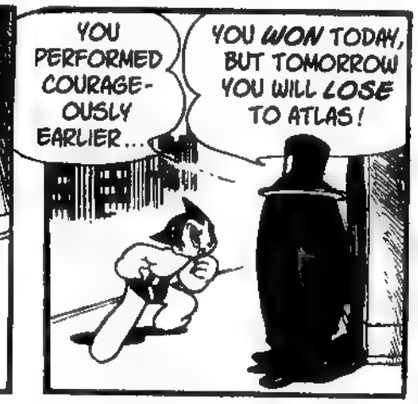

DON'T GET TOO DEPRESSED, ASTRO...
GOSH, YOU REALLY THINK I'M AN INFERIOR ROBOT?


DON'T BE SILLY!
NO MATTER HOW ADVANCED, BAD ROBOTS'RE STILL BAD!!

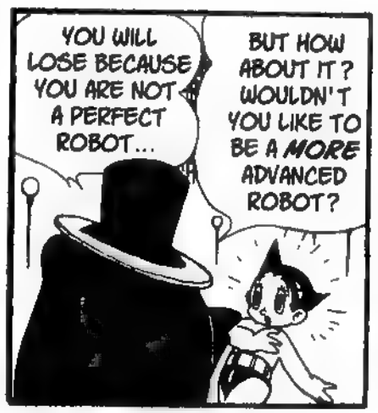

CHIN UP, ASTRO! SEE YA LATER!
THANKS, KEN! I APPRE-CIATE IT!


WHOA! ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

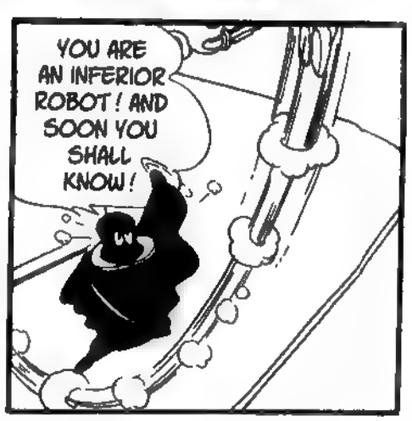

ASTRO BOY... LISTEN TO ME... LISTEN WELL...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

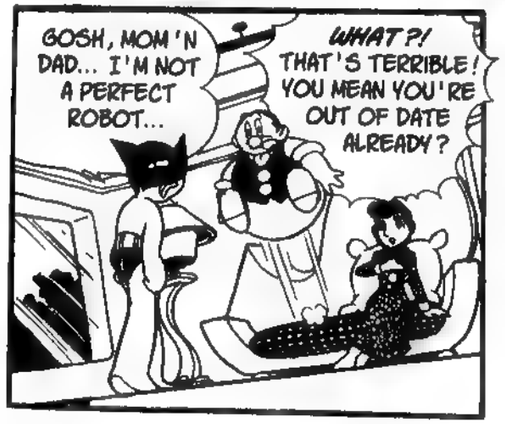

YOU PERFORMED COURAGE-OUSLY EARLIER...
YOU WON TODAY, BUT TOMORROW YOU WILL LOSE TO ATLAS!

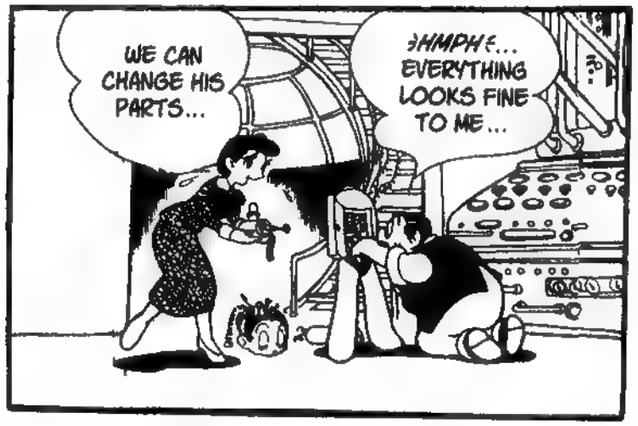

HEY! DON'T TRY TO LIFT MY CAPE!
SORRY ...


YOU WILL LOSE BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT A PERFECT ROBOT...
BUT HOW ABOUT IT? WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A MORE ADVANCED ROBOT?


NO! I LIKE MYSELF THE WAY I AM!


YOU ARE AN INFERIOR ROBOT! AND SOON YOU SHALL KNOW!


GOSH, MOM 'N DAD... I'M NOT A PERFECT ROBOT...
WHAT?! THAT'S TERRIBLE! YOU MEAN YOU'RE OUT OF DATE ALREADY?


WE CAN CHANGE HIS PARTS...
HMPH!... EVERYTHING LOOKS FINE TO ME...

I THINK HE'S A BIT *NEUROTIC* ...

THAT'S SILLY... HOW CAN A *ROBOT* BE NEUROTIC?!

HERE, ASTRO... I'LL ATTACH THIS TO CURE YOUR NEUROSIS...

SLEEP TIGHT!

MOM! I CAN'T SLEEP! SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME IS MAKING HUGE *NOISES*...

KABABOOOM

WHAT'D YOU PUT INSIDE HIM, DEAR?

UM... JUST A *TRANSISTOR RADIO* ...

YOU 'N ME. CHA CHA CHA!

YIKES! IT'S ANOTHER *EARTH-QUAKE!*

RUMBLE RUMBLE

WE BRING YOU AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT... MT. FUJI HAS BECOME AN ACTIVE VOLCANO!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

IT'S NOT ME, DAD... IT'S THIS *RADIO* YOU PUT INSIDE ME!

TEN YEARS EARLIER, CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES HAD BEGUN USING ATOMIC POWER TO WHITTLE DOWN THE *JAPAN ALPS*, TO MAKE THEM SUITABLE FOR *FARMING*...

AS A RESULT, *MT. FUJI*, WHICH HAD BEEN DORMANT FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS, STARTED TO AWAKEN...

OVER THIRTEEN TOWNS, INCLUDING THE NEARBY FUJI CITY, WERE THREATENED. CONTACT WITH THEM WAS LOST, AND RESCUE TEAMS WERE UNABLE TO REACH THEM...

GOSH, MOM... CAN I *PLEASE* GO HELP?

BE SURE TO HELP THE RESCUE TEAMS, ASTRO!

WHAT A BRAVE SON WE'VE GOT!

HELP US!

WE'LL BE TURNED INTO ASHES!!

WE'LL BE FINISHED WHEN THE LAVA REACHES HERE...

GOD HELP US!!

THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER HERE...

YIKES!

VOOSH

HMM... I WONDER...

SCREEE

ATLAS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ASTRO BOY!!

B-BUT THE VILLAGERS'LL BE WIPED OUT! DON'T YOU EVEN CARE?

NO, WHY SHOULD I?!!

ROAR

THE LAVA WANTS TO FLOW HERE, SO I'M HELPING IT!!

DON'T DO THAT!

HAR HAR HAR!!

ROAR ROAR ROAR

ROAR

CRACKE-

FSSST

CRACK

SCREECH

HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BREAKING DOWN THE DOOR OF OUR SHELTER?!

I'M ASTRO BOY!

ASTRO?! REALLY? WE KNOW YOU!

WHEN'S THE RESCUE TEAM COMING FOR US?!

LISTEN, THE LAVA'S HEADED HERE! WE'VE ONLY GOT ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE IT HITS...

WHAT?! THE LAVA FLOW?!

WE'LL BE BOILED ALIVE!!

MR. MAYOR, WE'VE GOT TO *EVACUATE!*

LEAVE THE SHELTER AND RISK VOLCANIC ASH AND FLYING DEBRIS?! ARE YOU *CRAZY?!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US! JUST SAVE THE *CHILDREN!!*

WHICH IS WORSE -- BEING BOILED ALIVE, OR STEAMED?

WELL, THE FAMOUS THIEF, GOEMON ISHIKAWA, WAS BOILED ...

DON'T GIVE UP, EVERY-BODY!

ARE THERE ANY ENGINEERS HERE WHO WORK IN THE JAPAN ALPS?

I'M AN ENGINEER!

WHERE'S THE SHED WITH THE *MINI A-BOMBS* USED TO LEVEL THE MOUNTAINS?

IT'S ON THE EDGE OF TOWN, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY FUSES...

I SAW THIS FORMATION ON THE WAY HERE... IF WE BLOW A HOLE HERE, WE CAN CHANGE THE LAVA FLOW...

DIRECTION OF LAVA

AND IF IT FLOWS HERE, THE TOWN'LL BE *SAVED!*

I'M HERE

FUJI CITY

HMM. NO ORDINARY PERSON CAN DO WHAT YOU'RE THINKING OF...

THAT'S WHY I'LL DO IT! AND DON'T WORRY, IT'LL WORK!

BUT WITHOUT *FUSES,* THE ATOMIC BOMBS WON'T WORK!

I'LL USE THE FIRING MECHANISM IN MY CHEST!

W-WAIT!! IF YOU DO THAT, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU?!

THIS IS THE PLACE...

ATOMIC MATERIALS STORAGE SHED

SMASH

LEAST I KNOW HOW TO USE THESE...

I CAN STOP THE FLOW AT THAT BANK AND BUILD A DEPRESSION HERE...

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN USE THAT?! *HA HA HA!*

HOW'RE YOU GONNA *IGNITE* IT, EH?! IT DOESN'T HAVE A *FUSE!*

I'LL USE THE CIRCUITS IN MY OWN BODY!!

BUT THEN YOU'LL BREAK DOWN!

AND YOU'LL BE BLOWN TO *SMITHER-EENS!*

HAR HAR HAR!

I DON'T CARE! I'M TRYING TO SAVE THE *HUMANS!*

WHA?!

WHY YOU...

VROOOM

ZOOOM

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

KA BABOOOM

SCREEE

SMASH

WOBBLE WOBBLE

LET ME *GO!* THE *LAVA'S* COMING!

ROAR ROAR ROAR

SLAM

GAGAAA!

GARIGARI GAGAGA- GAGGAA- AH...

GAGA GAGA BZZZZT ZZZT

WAIT! I KNOW!

I'LL USE *YOUR* FUSE, ATLAS!! I'LL FIND YOU ANOTHER ONE LATER!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

RUMBLE
RRRRRRRRR

IT *WORKED!* THE LAVA'S FLOWING IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

AN' I SEE THE RESCUE TEAM'S COMING!!

WHAT A RELIEF! NOW THE PEOPLE OF FUJI CITY CAN SAFELY EVACUATE!

LET'S GO HOME, ATLAS! NO NEED TO HANG AROUND HERE!

GIVE ME BACK *ATLAS*, ASTRO BOY!

DR. RAM?!!

I'LL NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE HAVE ATLAS!

VOOOSH
VOOOSH
VOOOSH

AIEEE!

THAT LIQUID PLASTIC'S MADE OF THE SAME CHEMICALS AS YOUR SKIN! SO IT'S LIKE BEING TRAPPED IN YOUR *OWN* SKIN!! HOW ABOUT IT? CAN'T MOVE, EH?!

HA HA HA!

ARGH ...

WELCOME TO MY HIDEOUT, ASTRO BOY! HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW? DON'T WORRY, I'LL SET YOU FREE...

DON'T MOVE, OR YOUR REAL SKIN'LL *MELT*...

FSST
PSSTTSST

WHEW ... I'M SAVED!

COME WITH ME...

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU...

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...

KNOW WHAT THIS IS?!

NO... I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN *MY* BODY...

THIS IS THE *OMEGA FACTOR*... THE SOURCE OF EVIL...

OMEGA FACTOR?! WELL, I'M *NOT INTERESTED!*

NO? BUT I WANT TO *GIVE* YOU ONE...

THIS ROOM'S SURROUNDED BY AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC NET! TRY'N LEAVE AN' YOU'LL BE *BLOWN TO BITS!* HEH HEH!

COOL YOUR HEELS HERE FOR A WHILE...

GOSH, IF ONLY I COULD CONTACT TOKYO SOME-HOW...

IF ONLY I HAD A MINI SYNCHRONOMETER... I COULD REACH THE *PROFESSOR!*

WAIT! I KNOW... DAD PUT A TRANSISTOR RADIO IN MY CHEST! MAYBE I COULD USE *THAT!*

HERE WE GO!

ASTRO THUS EAGERLY BEGAN TRYING TO REACH PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU... BUT WOULD HIS IDEA WORK?

I WANT REVENGE ON THE WHOLE WORLD... JAPAN'S JUST A *TEST CASE...*

SO, ATLAS, HOW'D THE VOLCANO DEAL GO?

IF ONLY *ASTRO* HADN'T GOTTEN IN THE WAY, IT WOULD'VE BEEN REALLY INTERESTING...

YOU NEED SOME *BROTHERS,* ATLAS... SO I'LL MAKE YOU SOME!

ZAP

BZZZZ

RATATATAT

GLLL GLLLL GLL ZZZZZT

OKAY, ATLAS ...

THESE GUYS'RE YOUR BROTHERS! THEY'VE BOTH GOT OMEGA FACTORS BUILT IN, SO MAKE LIKE *FRIENDS,* OKAY!?

WHAT SHALL I DO NEXT?

HM... WELL, WHY DON'T YOU USE THEM TO *ROB THE ROBOT BANK?!*

WE'RE NOT AFTER THE MONEY... I JUST WANT YOU TO *CREATE CHAOS!*

... AND I JUST HAD A REALLY *GOOD IDEA...*

WHY NOT WEAR THIS HEAD... EVERYONE'LL THINK IT'S *ASTRO'S* WORK!!

GOOD LUCK, BOYS!

SCREEEEEE

SCREEE

SCREEE

MUST BE *ATLAS* AGAIN !!

SCREEE

SCREEE

?

CLOMP CLOMP

UH OH... IT'S A *ROBOT GANG !!*

WHA ?! Y... YOU MUST BE KIDDING !!

SOUND THE *ALARM !!*

IT'S *ASTRO BOY !!*

WHAT ?! ASTRO BOY ROBBED A BANK ?! B-BUT THAT'S *NOT POSSIBLE !!*

ALL BANKS HAVE BEEN CLOSED. TRADING HAS ALSO CEASED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

IN OSAKA CITY, OVER TWO THOUSAND ROBOT WORKERS HAVE BEEN SMASHED...

WHEEEEEEEE

...MARTIAL LAW DECLARED NATIONWIDE

WHEEE WHEEE

SUMIBISI BANK

ROAAR

SMASH

POP POP POP

SMASH THE ROBOTS!

ROBOTS'RE ENEMIES OF HUMANITY!

UH OH... THE RIOTERS'RE COMING THIS WAY!

LET'S RUN FOR IT!!

STOP!!!

IT'S INSPECTORS NAKAMURA AN' TAWASHI!

IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE DRIVING HERE NOW...

IF THE RIOTERS SPOT YOU, THERE'LL BE *TROUBLE* ...

B-BUT THEY'RE AFTER US! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US!

THEY'RE YELLING ABOUT US BEING *ASTRO'S PARENTS!*

IT'S TRUE, HE *DID* CAUSE A BIG PROBLEM...

WHAT?! YOU THINK HE DID IT, TOO?

WELL, THERE *WERE* WITNESSES...

NO! MY SON COULDN'T *POSSIBLY* ROB A BANK!!

WELL, UNFORTUNATELY, SOMEONE'S COME UP WITH AN *OMEGA FACTOR...*

...AND THEY MAY HAVE PUT ONE IN ASTRO...

WHERE'S PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?

THERE... HE'S IN THAT LAB...

PROFESSOR... I'VE BROUGHT ASTRO'S PARENTS...

WELL, THAT'S GOOD...

WE'RE GETTING A *SIGNAL* FROM ASTRO RIGHT NOW...

A *SIGNAL?* FROM *ASTRO?!*

RIGHT... FROM THIS MAP, IT APPEARS HE'S SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SAITAMA AND NAGANO PREFECTURES, BETWEEN MT. MIKUNI AND KOBUSHI PEAK...

B-BUT WHY WOULD ASTRO SEND A SIGNAL IF HE JUST ROBBED A BANK?!

'CAUSE HE *HASN'T* ROBBED A BANK, YOU IDIOT!!

HE'S BEEN SENDING US THIS SIGNAL EVER SINCE LAST NIGHT!

IT'S YOUR CHOICE. I EITHER IMPLANT AN OMEGA FACTOR CIRCUIT IN YOU OR TURN YOU INTO A TOY ROBOT WITH THIS ELECTRO-MAG GUN!

I HOPE YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND...

I'LL COUNT TO THREE...

ONE...

TWO...

THREE...

BLAM BLAM BLAM CRASH RATTLE

WHA?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, COMING BACK LIKE THAT, ATLAS?!!

MY *HEAD*... I WANT MY *REAL HEAD!*

WHAT HAPPENED!? TELL ME!!

HOW DARE YOU ACT THIS WAY WITH ME?!

HOW DARE I? HOW DARE YOU ACT SO UPPITY!

UPPITY?! B-BUT I'M YOUR CREATOR!!

SO WHAT?! I COULDN'T CARE LESS NOW!

ATLAS... HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO ME?!

BLAST IT... MUST BE THE OMEGA FACTOR ...

I BET IT'S CAUSING YOU TO IGNORE ME!!

CHAK

WELL, DOCTOR... YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET YOUR REWARD FOR TREATING ME LIKE A SLAVE...

AIEE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? HELP!

?

IT'S DR. RAM!! WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SO, ASTRO BOY... IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR OUR SHOW-DOWN...

ASTRO'S SIGNAL'S COMING FROM AROUND HERE...

GOSH, IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...

WAIT... I SEE A BUILDING ON A PLATEAU TO THE RIGHT ...

THERE! THAT'S WHERE THE SIGNAL'S COMING FROM!

SO THAT'S WHERE ASTRO IS!!

WHIP

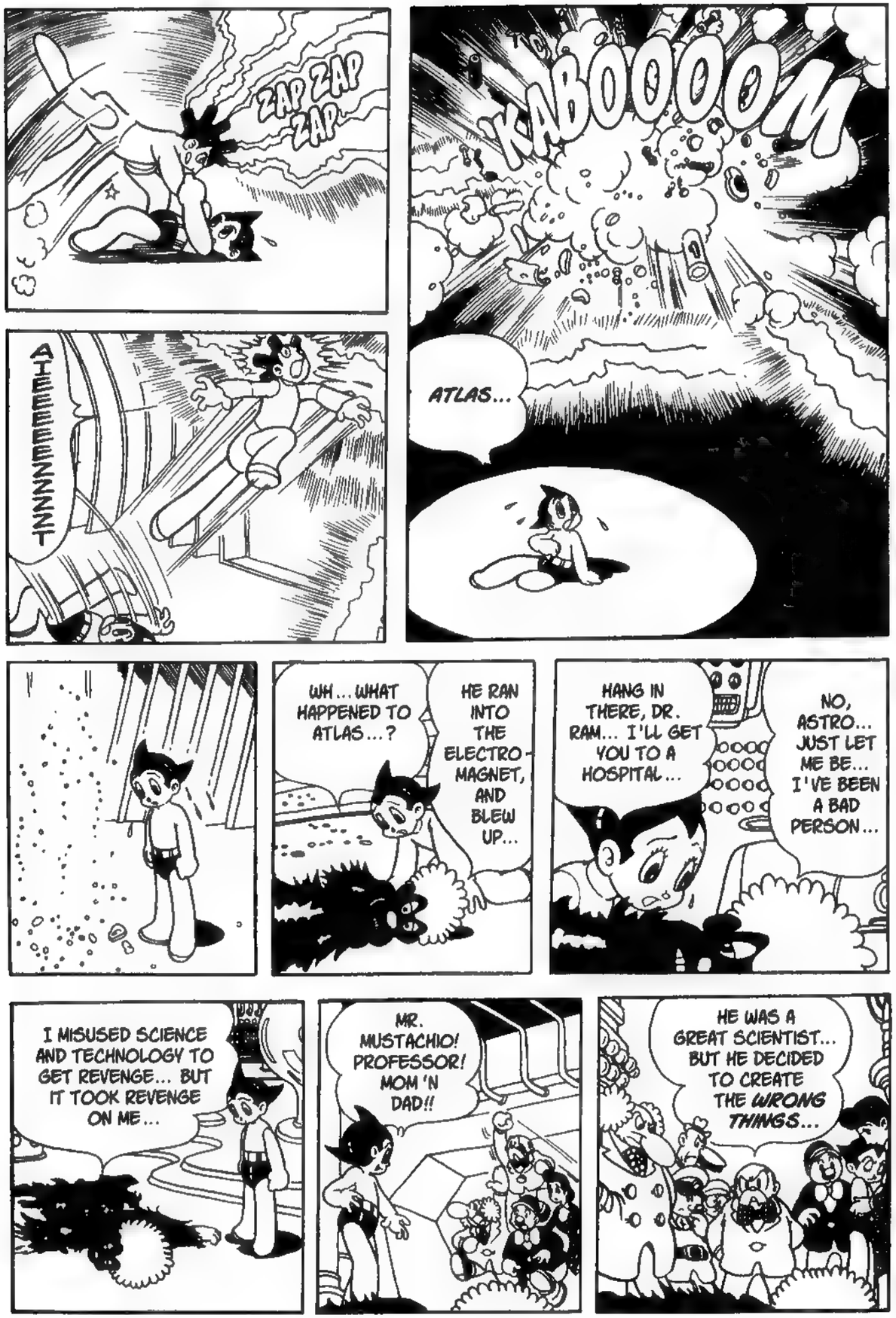
SMASH

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

KA BOOOM

NOW IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, ASTRO...

YIKES!


ZAP ZAP ZAP
KABOOOOOM
ATLAS...
AIEEENNNT
WH... WHAT HAPPENED TO ATLAS...?
HE RAN INTO THE ELECTRO-MAGNET, AND BLEW UP...
HANG IN THERE, DR. RAM... I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL...
NO, ASTRO... JUST LET ME BE... I'VE BEEN A BAD PERSON...
I MISUSED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO GET REVENGE... BUT IT TOOK REVENGE ON ME...
MR. MUSTACHIO! PROFESSOR! MOM 'N DAD!!
HE WAS A GREAT SCIENTIST... BUT HE DECIDED TO CREATE THE *WRONG THINGS*...

S.O.S. FROM A SATELLITE

First appeared in the 1959 special Summer expanded edition of *Shonen* magazine.

DOZENS OF MAN MADE SATELLITES ORBIT THE EARTH...

SPACE STATION 911

...AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM...

...ARE CALLED SATEL-LITERS" BY THOSE ON EARTH...

THESE PEOPLE WERE BORN AND RAISED IN SPACE STATIONS...

...AND THEY ONLY MAKE SHORT VISITS TO EARTH... IT IS TRUE OF THEIR CHILDREN, TOO...

MY DAD'S HEAD OF THE JAPAN TISSUE PAPER MARKETING COMPANY. HE'S A BIG SHOT BEHIND THE SCENES IN TRASHCAN MANUFACTURING!

WELL, *MY* DAD'S THE BEST *BLACK MARKETER* IN ALL JAPAN!

MY DAD'S AN EXECUTIVE WITH A MAJOR *POLLUTER!*

HOW 'BOUT YOU, GENCHIN?!

GOSH, MY DAD'S A *SIGNALMAN* ON A *SPACE STATION...*

YOU HEAR THAT? HIS DAD'S A SIGNAL-MAN ON A SPACE STATION!

HA HA! THAT'S *SO UN-COOL!*

NYADDY NYADDY NYAAA! YOU'RE A *SATEL-LITER!*

♪HMPH♪... THE KIDS'RE LEAVING SCHOOL...

STINKY OLD SATEL-LITER!

YEAH! SATEL-LITER BOY!

SCRAM, YOU *BULLIES!*

THOSE KIDS'RE THE LOWEST OF THE LOW, TREATING YOU LIKE THAT! BUT DON'T WORRY, SONNY, *I'M* YOUR FRIEND...

UH OH... GENCHIN GOT IN A CAR WITH SOME WEIRD OLD GUY...

MAYBE HE WAS KIDNAPPED!

HEY! *STOP!!*

OKAY, GUYS... TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE KID I BROUGHT... DON'T FORGET, HE'S OUR *HOSTAGE!*

BUT, BOSS... I MEAN, *MR. ODAWARA,* SIR... *UM*... THE KID'S DAD ISN'T THAT WELL OFF...

WORRIED ABOUT THE RANSOM, *EH?* WELL, HERE'S THE WAY I SEE IT...

HERE'S SPACE STATION 911...

WE TAKE IT OVER, AND USE IT AS A STAGING GROUND TO *SMUGGLE* STUFF FROM *MARS!!*

SINCE WE'VE GOT THE *KID,* THE *FATHER* WILL DO ANY-THING WE SAY... *HEH HEH...*

VOOOOSH

ROAR

VOOOOSH

HEY, A STRANGE ROCKET'S DOCKING...

WH-WHO ARE *YOU?!*

HEH HEH... WE'RE HERE TO TAKE OVER THIS STATION, PAL...

B-BUT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MONITORING FACILITY FOR SPACE TRAVEL! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!

WHO SAYS WE CAN'T? AND BY THE WAY, DOES THIS BAG BELONG TO YOUR *KID?*

IT'S *GEN-CHIN'S,* DEAR!

THEY'VE *KIDNAP-PED* HIM!!!

OKAY, BOYS... GO TO IT!

WE'RE TAKING OVER THIS STATION!

A CLUSTER OF *ASTEROIDS* ARE HEADED THIS WAY! IF I DON'T SEND OUT A SIGNAL, THEY COULD CAUSE AN *ACCIDENT!*

WAZZAT?

WHO CARES!!!

MIND YOUR *MANNERS* WHEN YOU TALK TO ME!

WE SMASHED THE SIGNAL ROOM THAT COMMUNI-CATES WITH EARTH, BOSS...

GOOD...

GENCHIN... WHERE ARE YOU?!

I KNOW... I'LL SET MY HEARING TO 1000X!

UNGH... UMPH... ALP...

THAT'S GENCHIN, 'N HE'S IN *TROUBLE!!*

SMASH

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE... I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU, GENCHIN!

THE BAD GUYS'VE GONE TO MY SPACE STATION, ASTRO!

TO YOUR HOME?!

WE'VE GOTTA HURRY! NO TIME TO TAKE A ROCKET! PUT ON YOUR SPACE SUIT, GENCHIN!

YOU MIGHT GET DIZZY, BUT HANG ON TIGHT!

ASTRO BOY?!?!

SLAM

BAM

POW

KAMINGGG

BLAM

BLAM

CRUNCH

POWD!!

YIKES!!

ARGHA!?

HAALP! *HALLP!*

DAD! IT'S *ME! GENCHIN!*

M... MY SON ...

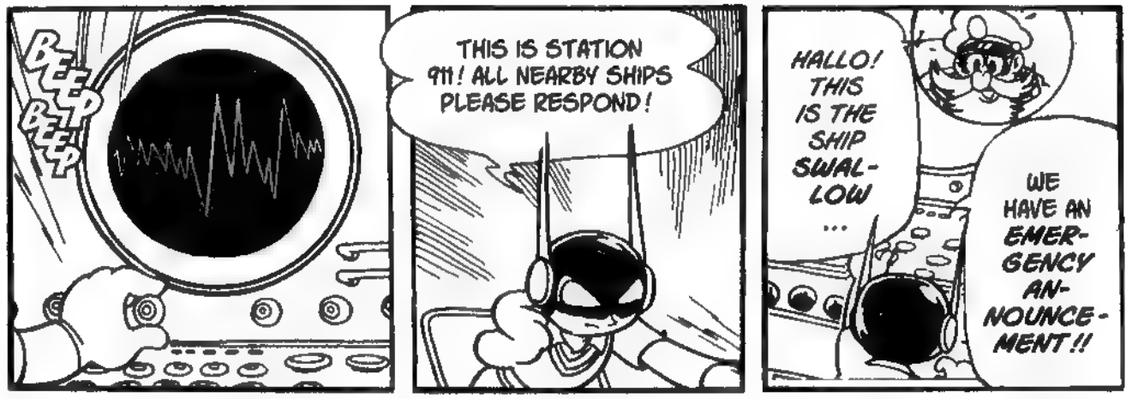
FORGET ABOUT ME... GO TO THE SIGNAL ROOM...

ASTEROIDS ARE HEADED THIS WAY...

YOU'VE GOTTA SEND OUT A *WARNING SIGNAL!*

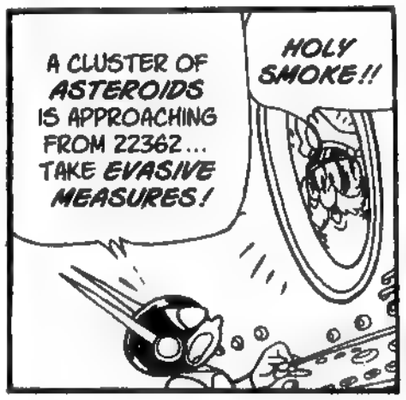
HURRY, BEFORE AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS!

YESSIR!!

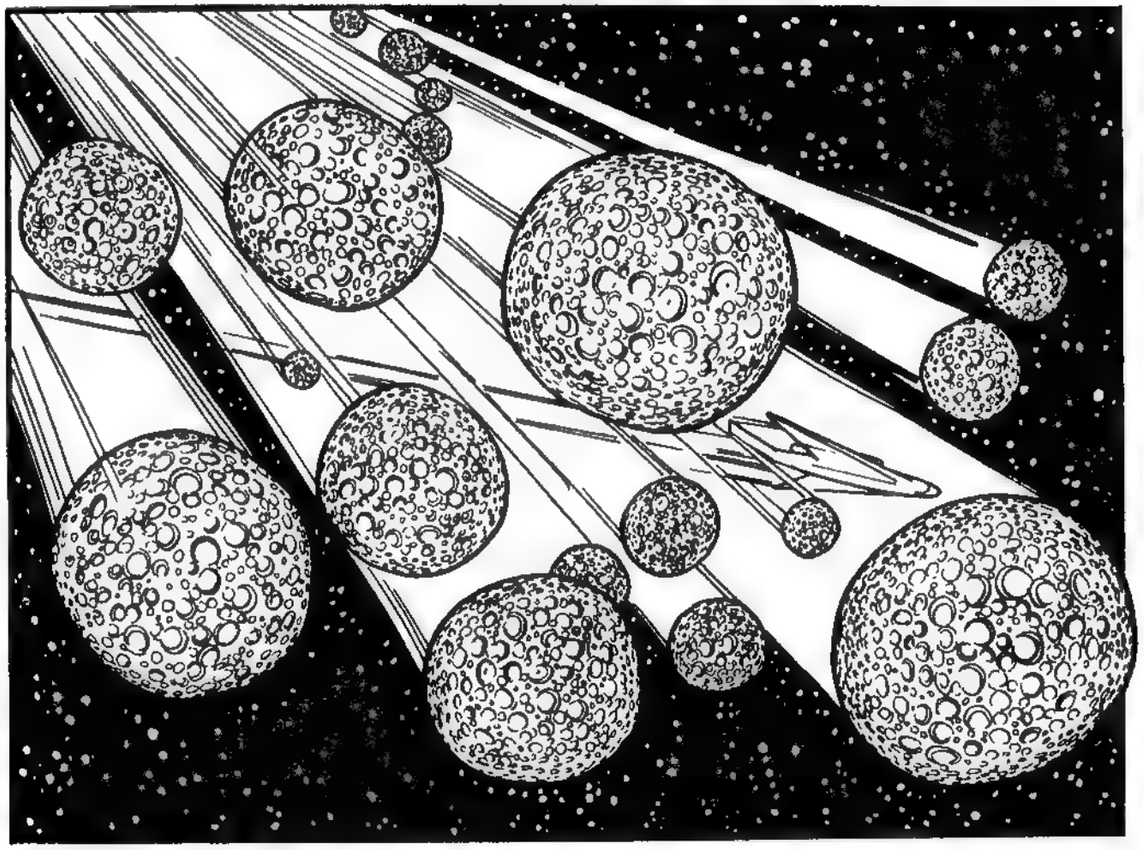

BEEP BEEP BEEP

THIS IS STATION 911! ALL NEARBY SHIPS PLEASE RESPOND!

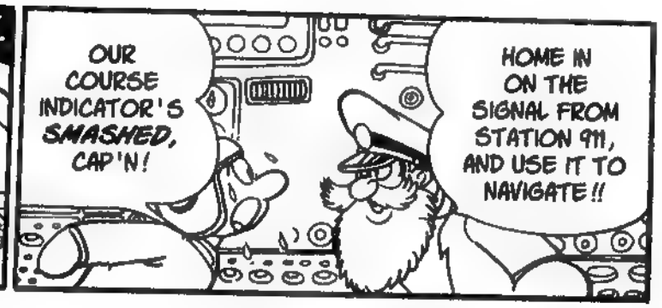
HALLO! THIS IS THE SHIP SWAL-LOW ...
WE HAVE AN EMER-GENCY AN-NOUNCE-MENT!!


A CLUSTER OF ASTEROIDS IS APPROACHING FROM 22362... TAKE EVASIVE MEASURES!
HOLY SMOKE!!

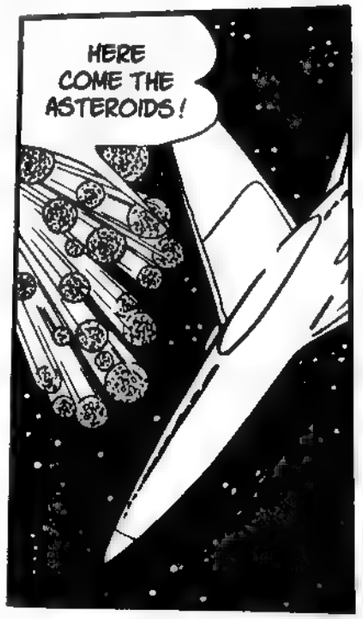

GOSH, I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!

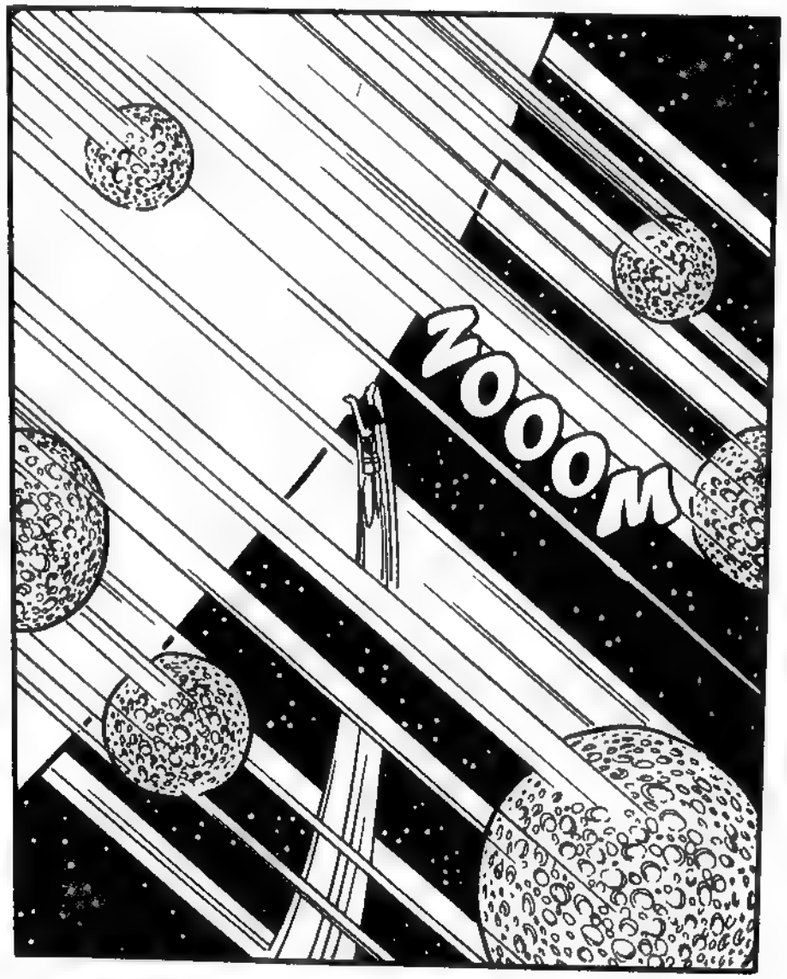



SLAM

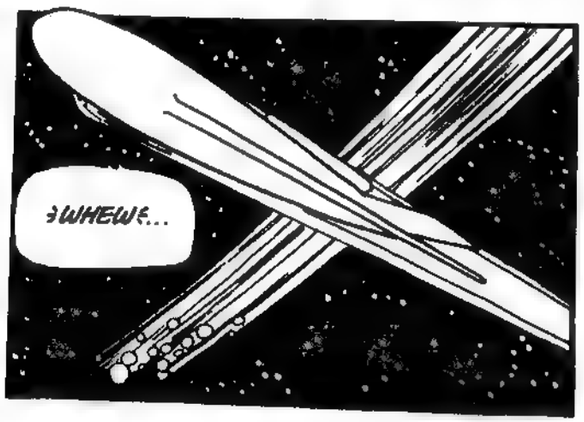

OUR COURSE INDICATOR'S SMASHED, CAP'N!
HOME IN ON THE SIGNAL FROM STATION 911, AND USE IT TO NAVIGATE!!


B-BUT THERE'RE ASTEROIDS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST STATION 911'S SIGNAL!


HERE COME THE ASTEROIDS!


VOOOOM


HERE WE GO!


WHEW...


SAFE!!
THANKS, SONNY! YOU SAVED US!!
THANKS SO MUCH, STATION 911! YOU SAVED THE LIVES OF FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE!!
≠WHEW≠...
WELL DONE, SON... WELL DONE...
WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU, GENTARO... YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER YOUR PAPA'S WORK...
WE'VE BEEN MONITORS HERE SINCE YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S TIME, SON... I STARTED WORKING HERE AT AGE NINETEEN...
AND I'M *PROUD* OF THIS JOB!!
WE'RE LIKE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS... WE'RE BORN HERE, AND WE *DIE* HERE...
GENCHIN! DON'T FORGET TO COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW!!



THE MYSTERIOUS BALL

First serialized from October to December 1957 in *Shonen* magazine.

BOYS AND GIRLS, KEN'ICHI HERE'S GOING TO EMIGRATE TO ***BRAZIL***, IN SOUTH AMERICA, WITH HIS UNCLE...

SO TODAY WE'RE GOING TO BE SAYING GOODBYE TO HIM...

AH, SHUCKS ...

SHIBUGAKI... YOU'RE S'POSED TO GIVE THE FAREWELL SPEECH...

CLATTER CLATTER

WELL, ER... UM... AHEM... IT'S LIKE... UM...

TODAY, WE'RE, UM...

... HOPING YOU REST IN PEACE, KEN'ICHI ...

HEY! THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY AT A ***FUNERAL***, STUPID!!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

SAYONARA, ASTRO. NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL PROBABLY BE A TEEN-AGER...

AN' I'LL BE JUST LIKE I AM NOW...

SAYO-NARA, KEN!

G'BYE !!

IT'S WAY TOO EARLY TO GET HOMESICK, KEN'ICHI!

WE'RE GOING TO BE GOING DEEP UP THE AMAZON RIVER...

...TO A VILLAGE CALLED ***BAMBOO-BA***...

WE'VE DOCKED, SENOR! FROM NOW ON WE HAVE TO ***WALK!***

DO PEOPLE ***REALLY*** LIVE WHERE WE'RE GOING?

'COURSE THEY DO! WE'RE GOING TO A BUSTLING VILLAGE!

THERE'S LOTS OF JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS IN BRAZIL!

AND THEY'VE REALLY HELPED US BRAZILIANS!

ONCE WE GET THROUGH THIS JUNGLE, SENOR, WE'LL BE IN ***BAMBOOBA*** ...

WHAT THE --?!

WHAT HAPPENED ?!

THIS IS BAMBOOBA ?

WHERE'S THE VILLAGE?

WHAT'S ALL THIS ***BLACK STUFF?***

LOOK'S LIKE ***SILK-WORM DROP-PINGS***...

WHERE'D ALL THE VILLAGERS GO?

THIS BLACK STUFF COVERS A COUPLE SQUARE MILES!

WHAT A MESS... AND WITHOUT A RADIO, WE CAN'T EVEN ***CONTACT*** ANYONE...

WAIT... THERE'S A MOBILE PHONE IN THE ***TRUCK!***

HMM... LOOKS LIKE AN ***EGG***...

WAIT A SEC'... IT'S A WEIRD ***BALL***...

LOOK WHAT I FOUND, UNCLE!

THIS WAS MIXED IN WITH THE DROP-PINGS?!

HAALP!

THE TRUCK'S MISSING!!

MISSING P!

ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE THOSE DROP-PINGS!

.....
.....

LISTEN, EVERY-BODY... WE'RE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF A REAL MYSTERY HERE...

SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, THAT WE CAN'T SEE, MUST BE CAUSING THIS...

BUT IF WE KEEP OUR WITS ABOUT US AND INVESTIGATE THINGS, WE MIGHT FIND A SIMPLE ANSWER...

IT'S SO DARK IT'S CREEPY, UNCLE...

I BET THIS THING'S ACTING LIKE A SIGNAL LAMP...

IT'S BROAD-CASTING SOMETHING UP INTO THE SKY!

COVER IT WITH SOME-THING, KEN!

EVERYBODY WAKE UP! SOME-THING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN!

LOOK! THAT BALL I FOUND'S GLOWING!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

If anyone finds this box... Please send it to the Japanese Embassy in Rio...

TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY

BLAM BLAM BLAM

KA-THUD KA-THUD KA-THUD

KEN'ICHI! RUN FOR IT!!

KA-THUD KA-THUD KA-THUD KA-THUD

AIEEE!

THUD THUD

I RECEIVED THIS BOX FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BRAZIL...

SOME NATIVES APPARENTLY FOUND IT FLOATING IN THE RIVER AND BROUGHT IT IN...

BUT THE ONLY THING INSIDE WAS A *PING PONG BALL*...

HEY! THIS IS FROM *KEN'ICHI* !!

KEN'ICHI MUST HAVE PUT THE BOX IN THE RIVER WITH THE BALL...

SAYS THEY FOUND THE SETTLEMENT WIPED OUT, WITH THIS STRANGE BALL ON THE GROUND...

BUT WHY WOULD THE SETTLEMENT BE WIPED OUT, PROFESSOR? DID EVERYONE DIE OF *DISEASE*?

UH OH... LOOK AT THE *BALL!*

IT'S GIVING OFF A *WEIRD LIGHT!*

WHAT THE --P!

FLASH

SCREE

UH OH ...

IT'S COMING AFTER THE *LIGHT!!*

SMASH

STOP, YOU MONSTER!

GIG!!! ARGH€...

WHAT HAPPENED, ASTRO?!

I *GOT* HIM, PROFESSOR! HE WAS TRYING TO STEAL THE *BALL!*

HMPH€... YOU DON'T APPEAR TO BE HUMAN...

I'M AN *ERO-SAN!*

EROSAN? WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS THAT?

I WASN'T PLANNING ON COMING HERE! I CAME HERE BECAUSE OF THE *SIGNAL!*

DON'T WANT TO TALK ANYMORE, *EH?* WELL, WE'VE GOT A WAY TO *MAKE* YOU TALK...

BRING ON THE *ECTOPSYCHO-SCOPE*, ASTRO!

THIS THING READS PEOPLE'S MINDS AND BROADCASTS THEIR THOUGHTS ON A SCREEN...

GIGIGIG!!!...

GIII

HMM. LOOKS LIKE A *MINI-PLANET*...

WAIT! THIS THING'S AN *ASTEROID*, ISN'T IT?!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE A LIFE FORM FROM AN ASTEROID?!

CAN THIS BE REAL?!

ASTEROIDS HAVE NO ATMOSPHERE, AND NOTHING'S SUPPOSED TO LIVE ON THEM!

PROFESSOR! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE ON THE ECTOPSYCHO-SCOPE!

THEY'RE *SPACE SHIPS!*

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

I SAID, *WHAT'S GOING ON?!!*

G/G/G/... I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU EVERYTHING NOW! IT'S *TRUE!* WE CAME TO *ATTACK EARTH!!*

WE HAVE LONG LIVED UNDER GREAT HARDSHIP ON TINY ASTEROIDS. BUT WE CAN SURVIVE BY EATING ROCKS AND SOIL!

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF ASTEROIDS, AND WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING AROUND THE UNIVERSE, *EATING THEM UP*...

YOU MEAN YOU CAME TO *EARTH* TO EAT IT UP, TOO?

G/G/G/... IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!!

HELLO? GET ME THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, *QUICK!*

SINCE YOU HAVE THE SIGNAL BALL HERE ...

OUR FORCES WILL BE ARRIVING *SOON*... G/ G/...

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

EGADS! HE'S ESCAPING WITH THE BALL!

STOP!!

FORGET THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE! GET ME THE *POLICE!*

THERE HE IS!

GIVE BACK THAT BALL!!

STOP!!

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

HA HA HA... DOESN'T HURT A BIT!!

HOW 'BOUT A FEW *VOLTS* P!!

THERE HE IS! GET HIM!

WATCH OUT! HE'S AN *ALIEN!!*

WOW! JUST LIKE A DEMON IN THE *RASHOMON* DRAMA!

SURROUND THE BUILDING! TRY'N TAKE HIM *ALIVE!*

VOOSH

YIKES!

INSPECTOR *NAKA-MURA'S* BEEN TAKEN ALIVE!

KAWM EEEE

VER-BLAM

YOUR BULLETS DON'T AFFECT ME!

JACK! HE'S EATING MY *HAT!*

AARGH! INSPEC-TOR!!

TAKE *THIS!!*

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

TOO BAD... LOOKS LIKE WE *KILLED* HIM...

NO WAY TO TAKE HIM ALIVE IN THAT SITUATION...

WHAT?! THE *MYSTERY BALL* IS MISSING!!

HE MUST'VE HIDDEN IT SOME-WHERE!!

WE'D BETTER SEARCH FOR IT!

HMPH... NOBODY SYMPA-THIZES WITH ME...

WE'VE GOTTA FIND THE BALL, INSPECTOR!

FIND THE BALL, MEN!!

AS LONG AS THAT THING'S AROUND, WE'RE IN *DANGER*...

IT'LL GIVE OFF THAT SIGNAL AND DRAW EROSANS HERE...

WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD DO?

CITIZENS OF TOKYO! WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION IN LOCATING A BALL AROUND FOUR INCHES IN DIAMETER! IF YOU SEE IT, PLEASE REPORT TO THE POLICE!

*THE BALL BELONGS TO A TERRIBLE ASTEROID LIFEFORM THAT IS **THREATENING EARTH!** PLEASE REPORT ANY SIGHTING **IMMEDIATELY!***

WE ASK THE COOPERATION OF ALL CITIZENS!

HMM... WONDER WHAT THIS IS... *HEH HEH*...

FINDERS KEEPERS...

VOOSH

HEY... YOU JUST PICKED UP THE BALL, RIGHT?!

I DUNNO NOTHIN' 'BOUT NO BALL!

YOU'RE *LYING!* GIVE IT TO ME, *PLEASE!*

HEY, DAD! THIS KID'S THREAT-ENING ME!
A RO-BOT, EH?!
IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, THAT BALL'LL CAUSE A HUGE DISASTER, MISTER!
WELL, MY KID SAYS HE AIN'T GOT IT!!
BUT HE DOES!! MY ROBOT BRAIN TELLS ME SO!
YOU CALLIN' MY KID A THIEF?!
YOU BLASTED ROBOTS'RE THE REASON WE HUMANS'RE OUTA WORK!!
TAKE A LOOK! THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS ROOM!
STILL WANTA MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT, EH?!
DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE, YOU RUST-BUCKET!
GOSH, I'M SORRY ...
IF HE COMES BACK, SPIT ON HIM, OKAY?!
YOU BET, DAD!
SURE ENOUGH... THERE'S A LIGHT COMING FROM THAT HOUSE!
HMM...
TIME TA HIT THE HAY, SON...

UH OH... HERE COME THE ALIENS!
SCREEE
?
WHAT THE --P!!
WHAT'S WITH THIS BALL, BOY?
UH, I'M SORRY, DAD!!
WHY, YOU IDIOT! SO YOU DID STEAL IT!
NO! I FOUND IT, DAD!
WELL, GIVE IT BACK TO THE ROBOT, STUPID!
GO GIVE IT BACK!! NOW!
WAAAHH!
RUMBLE
BUZZZ
BUZZZ
BZZZ

OH MY GOSH...

EVERYONE OKAY?

≠WAAAH!≠ ≠WAAAH!≠

THE CRYING TELLS ME YOU'RE OKAY... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...

THANKS, ROBO-BOY...

LET ME TAKE YOU THIS WAY...

WOW... IT'S EATING THE *WHOLE BUILDING!*

THIS IS WHAT ROBOTS'RE GOOD FOR, MISTER...

HOSPITAL

HAALP! SAVE US!!

STOP, MON-STERS!!

ROCKET SHIP MONSTERS'VE LANDED NEAR SHIMBASHI STATION! THEY'RE GOING *CRAZY!*

ROCKET SHIP MON-STERS? *WHA?!*

PROFESSOR! EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON!!

WHAT ARE THOSE SPACE SHIPS?!!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

TIME TO STOP, EROSANS!!

NOTHING WORKS ON THESE BLASTED THINGS!

BAM BAM

KERBASH

ASTRO! RUN FOR IT!!

NO, TEACHER! I WON'T RETREAT!

LOOK AT THIS, ASTRO! IT'S THEIR *DROP-PINGS!*

THEIR DROP-PINGS?

LOOK! THEY EAT CONCRETE, STEEL, *ANYTHING*... AND TURN IT INTO *THIS!*

I JUST WISH I COULD DO SOME-THING, TEACHER!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, ASTRO! AS A THIRD GENERATION TOKYO-ITE, MY INNARDS ARE AT BOILING POINT!

LET'S WAIT 'TIL THEY'RE EXHAUSTED FROM ALL THIS, AND THEN ATTACK!

WE'LL HAVE TO LAUNCH A MISSILE STRAIGHT INTO THEIR MOUTHS!

WE'LL GET YOU YET, MONSTERS!

LOOK AT THESE STUPID TELEGRAMS FROM THE AMERICANS AND SOVIETS... "WE SEND OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE BUT DO NOT WANT TO INTERVENE IN JAPAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS..."

PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE, PROFESSOR...

THREE SECONDS TO IGNITION... TWO SECONDS... ONE...

LAUNCH MISSILE!

ROAR

VROOM

WAY TO GO!! RIGHT DOWN THE HATCH!

NOW FOR THE EXPLOSION!

WHA?!

HOW COME IT DOESN'T EXPLODE?

BLAST IT! THEY EAT MISSILES, TOO!

UH OH... THEY'RE ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO... SOMETHING...

WELL, BOMBS OR POISON GAS WON'T WORK...

ASTRO BOY! YOU'VE GOT A WIRELESS CALL FROM SOUTH AMERICA!

HI, ASTRO HERE... WHO AM I TALKING TO?

THAT YOU, ASTRO?!

THAT YOU, KEN? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THE ALIENS WERE CAUSING A MESS IN BRAZIL, TOO!

THE WEIRD THING IS, THOUGH, AFTER THEY ATE THROUGH A SUGAR CANE FIELD, THEY ALL DIED OFF!

SUGAR CANE?

SUGAR CANE?!

HMM...

THAT WAS A CALL FROM KEN'ICHI IN BRAZIL, TEACHER!

SO THE MONSTERS DIED AFTER EATING SUGAR CANE, EH? I WONDER WHY?

SUGAR CANE'S SWEET, OF COURSE...

MAYBE THAT'S IT, TEACHER!

MAYBE THE MONSTERS CAN'T EAT SWEET THINGS! THERE'S LOTS OF SALT IN ROCK CREVASSES, BUT NEVER SUGAR, RIGHT?

...I BET THEY GET SICK WHEN THEY EAT SWEET THINGS!!

HEY, THIS IS TOO MUCH!!

THEY GET SICK WHEN THEY EAT SUGAR? WHY, ONLY A KID COULD THINK UP A SCENARIO LIKE THIS!! HEH HEH!

IT SOUNDS ALMOST LIKE A *MANGA STORY!*

LISTEN, LAUGH ALL YOU WANT, BUT REMEMBER WHEN THEY LAUNCHED THE FIRST SATELLITES INTO OUTER SPACE FIFTY YEARS AGO?

WELL, UNTIL THEN EVERY-ONE THOUGHT SPACE TRAVEL ONLY TOOK PLACE IN SCIENCE FICTION AND MANGA, BUT IT CAME *TRUE!* SO DON'T MAKE FUN OF KIDS' STORIES!

UM... THE SPACE SHIPS'RE GETTING NEARER, PROFESSOR...

...THEY'LL START EATING THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE NEXT...

THE POLICE DEPART-MENT'S STILL OKAY, BUT THEY'VE ALREADY EATEN THE *MINISTRY OF FINANCE!*

GENTLEMEN, IF YOU WANT TO RUN, NOW'S THE TIME TO DO SO!

GET ME THE CURRENT EVENTS DESK OF THE A-B NEWSPAPER! *QUICK!*

OH, IT'S YOU, EH?... DON'T BOTHER COMING BACK TO THE OFFICE...

WHA?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THE NEWSPAPER COMPANY BUILDING'S BEEN EATEN!

OH, REALLY ...?

WHA?! YOU MEAN YOU'RE *NOT* JOKING?!

IF THE COMPANY'S BEEN EATEN, I'M *UNEM-PLOYED!!*

THIS IS *TERRIBLE.* THERE'S BEEN EVEN *MORE* DAMAGE THAN I THOUGHT...

MEANHILE, ASTRO WAS GOING AROUND TOKYO, ASKING *CANDY MAKERS* TO HELP OUT.... HE BEGAN COLLECTING SUGAR AND SWEETS FROM WARE-HOUSES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

TAKE IT TO WHERE THE SPACE SHIPS ARE!

THEN PILE IT UP INTO A *MOUNTAIN OF SWEETS!*

ALL THE CANDY MAKERS IN TOKYO ARE HELPING OUT, TEACHER!

WOW... THERE'S TONS OF THE STUFF!

LOOK! THE MONSTER SHIPS ARE *EATING* IT!

CRUNCH CRUNCH

HERE GOES WITH FIFTY TONS OF SWEET RED BEAN SOUP!

URP...

SHLURP SHLURP

HM... IT *IS* SUDDENLY *QUIET!*

?


HEY! IT WORKED! HOORAY!
THE ALIENS'VE STOPPED EATING, AND THEY'RE COLLAPSING IN AGONY!
WHAAA! BOOO!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOTTEN FOOD POISONING FROM EATING TOO MANY SWEETS!
SO IT'S TRUE! THE ALIENS' BODIES AREN'T CAPABLE OF DIGESTING SWEETS!!
JUST LIKE OUR BODIES REJECT SOME THINGS, THE EROSANS AREN'T USED TO EATING ORGANIC FOODS, ESPECIALLY STARCH, CARBOHYDRATES, OR SUGAR! THEY'VE NEVER HAD TO EAT THEM ON THE ASTEROIDS WHERE THEY LIVE, WHERE EVERYTHING IS INORGANIC AND MINERALS. HUMANS GET INDIGESTION IF THEY EAT TOO MUCH CANDY, BUT TO THE EROSANS IT'S FATAL!!
WOW! LOOK AT ALL THE SWEETS THEY LEFT!
LET'S TAKE SOME! WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH CANDY TO LAST A LIFETIME!
HEY! WHAT DO YOU KIDS THINK YOU'RE DOING?!! NO FREE CANDY FOR YOU! BUY IT AT THE STORE!!